



North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2014

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

1. Opening of the Annual Session

The 317th session of North Carolina Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Conservative) convened at the Guilford College, in Greensboro, North Carolina, from the tenth of Seventh Month to the thirteenth of the same, 2014.

The sessions opened with the clerk, Nancy Craft, reading from Hebrews 10: 22 – 24:

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscientious, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

And let us to consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works. Hebrews 10: 22 – 24 (King James)

2. Visitors

Visiting Friends introduced themselves and were welcomed:

Elizabeth “Liz” Gates, Lancaster Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Alice Hampton, Whittier Monthly Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

Ruth Hampton, Whittier Monthly Meeting, Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative)

Rex Spouse, Fall Creek Friends Meeting, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, Friends General Conference Yearly Meeting Visitor

David Eley, Keystone Fellowship Monthly Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting

Mark Wutka, Nashville Monthly Meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association

Max Carter, Friends Center, Guilford College and New Garden Monthly Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM)

Ari Betof, New Garden Friends School and Newtown Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and attender at Friendship Monthly Meeting

Travel minutes were read for Liz Gates, Ruth and Alice Hampton, and Rex Sprouse.

Friends approved that the clerk endorse the minutes of travel.

3. Minutes of the Representative Body

The Minutes of the Representative Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) of Tenth Month 26, 2013 and Fourth Month 26, 2014 were read. Friends approved that the Representative Body minutes for both Fourth and Tenth Months be included in these minutes.

Minutes of the Representative Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Tenth Month 26, 2013

The Representative Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) convened at the Davidson Friends meetinghouse in Davidson, North Carolina on the 26th of Tenth Month, 2013. Following worship and lunch, the meeting opened with gathering worship, out of which the clerk read Deuteronomy 6:4-7:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt

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teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and then thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

The clerk welcomed everyone and expressed gratitude to Davidson Friends for their hospitality. It was noted that no visitors were in attendance.

Minutes of the Representative Body meeting in Fourth Month, 2013 were read.

Ray Treadway presented a brief report from the Financial Review Committee, which was accepted.

Financial Review Committee Report

The members of the Financial Review Committee, appointed during the 2013 sessions of Annual Meeting, have reviewed the financial records of the yearly meeting for the 2012 - 2013 fiscal year, ending on Sixth Month 30, 2013. We have found them to be in good order with substantial documentation and detail. We thank the treasurer, Lloyd Lee Wilson, for his care for the yearly meeting's finances and record keeping.

Submitted by Susan Lees and Ray Treadway

David Perry presented a report from the Minutes Committee, which was accepted with appreciation.

Minutes Committee Report

The minutes of the NCYM-C 2013 sessions have been prepared, proofread, and published. They are being distributed at fall Representative Body.

The minutes will be posted to the yearly meeting website for reference, with the directory information left out.

The directory was produced separately for the second year and one hundred hardcopies were made available at annual sessions this past summer. In addition, digital PDF copies have been provided to those who felt the need to create additional copies for their meetings.

Two hundred copies of the minutes were ordered this year from InstantPublisher.com. With purchase of the overrun copies, a total of 210 were available for distribution. The cost of publishing was \$956.96, with shipping costs, taxes, and the cost of overrun copies included. The cost of locally publishing one hundred separate directories was \$187.26. The total costs for 2013 were \$1,144.22, approximately the same as in 2012.

Submitted by David Neil Perry, Minutes Committee Clerk

Returned travel minutes were read for Robert (Bob) Gosney from Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends and for Barbara Gosney from Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends and from Ireland Yearly Meeting, including additional endorsements from Bessbrook and Bishopstreet Meetings in Northern Ireland.

Lloyd Lee Wilson presented the Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer's Report First Quarter, 2013-2014

Income during the first quarter this year included \$3,108 from monthly meetings. Income from the 2012 yearly meeting sessions is shown on this report, amounting to \$15,540.83. The checking account is reconciled through the 9/13/2013 statement.

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Expenses recorded during the first quarter included \$17,120.54 of yearly meeting program and site expenses, up from \$12,192.71 last year. UNC-Wilmington did not charge us sales tax, so there is no refund to anticipate at the end of the calendar year.

The yearly meeting provided \$3,856.00 in scholarships to enable young Friends to attend sessions free of charge. This amount exceeded the total of scholarship funds on hand plus this year's donations by \$1,320.94. Overall the sessions generated a deficit of \$3,442.82.

Donations this quarter include the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund, FCNL, and Quaker House of Fayetteville.

Administrative expenses this quarter included the annual rental of our post office box in Greensboro. No requests were received this quarter for internships, scholarships, or general travel.

Fund balances as of 9/30 are shown on the Balance Sheet.

Recommendations:

The Finance Committee expects to have recommendations to present to Representative Body in Tenth Month on how the yearly meeting might match its desire to support young Friends at yearly meeting sessions with available resources.

Submitted by Lloyd Lee Wilson

The body approves continuing our practice of providing full financial support for those eighteen and under attending our yearly meeting sessions. It was recommend that the Planning Committee include an additional ten to fifteen dollars for this purpose in calculating the basic registration fee to fully cover the costs involved in providing financial support for youth participation.

The Finance Committee recommended, and the body approved, that the travel expenses of the yearly meetings officers, including the clerk, recording clerk, assistant clerk and treasurer of the yearly meeting and the yearly meeting's Ministry and Oversight clerk and recording clerk, are eligible for reimbursements. This is to be added to the list of those who are eligible for travel support with a policy of reimbursing at the amount of fifty percent of the Internal Revenue Service business rate.

The Finance Committee did consider the travel budget for representatives to organizations. A deficit budget was approved for this year. Given this reality, the committee was not clear to increase the travel budget beyond the \$2,000 currently allotted. However, the committee will collaborate closely with the newly established Traveling Support Committee to insure that representatives requesting reimbursement are able to receive in a timely manner. This is in addition to rather than replacing the practice of representatives making direct requests to the Finance Committee for reimbursements up to \$300. \$4,000 is currently in the travel fund with an additional \$2,000 budgeted for this year so there are funds available for those needing support.

Andrew Wright reported on behalf of the Discipline Revision Committee:

- A Google Documents folder was established to share the progress of the discipline revision process. It is currently shared with monthly meeting liaisons only; the folder will be shared more widely as there is more content to share.
- About half of monthly meetings have named liaisons and responded to the initial questions letter. Those meetings who have not yet done so are encouraged to act soon.

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- The committee has chosen the first part of the Organization and Procedures section of the discipline as our initial assignment. We will try to circulate a draft to monthly meetings in early 2014.
- The committee has gathered twice for half-day worship and working sessions. We feel very much under the weight of the task set before us. We are glad to report that our time together has enhanced our mutual understanding and trust of one another, as well as our commitment to the revision process. It is a joyful process for each of us.
- The committee recommends that the yearly meeting develop a Handbook of Policies and Procedures, to be distributed in addition to the discipline. The handbook would include descriptions of relevant policies and procedures established by the yearly meeting at a level of detail not appropriate for inclusion in the discipline. A first draft of such a document could be the *Extracts of Minutes 1981*, commissioned by Representative Body in 2002 and recently updated through 2012. As a first step in consideration of this recommendation, the committee recommends that the *Extracts* be posted on the yearly meeting web site.
- Operating without clerk; Lloyd Lee Wilson will be contact person for the committee this year.

Andrew highlighted the level of trust and engagement, which has developed amongst the committee. The committee feels that they have begun to move forward as a committee and does not sense a need for additional members at this time. However, the committee remains open should the body or Nominating Committee feel that additional members are needed. In addition to the committee appointed by the yearly meeting, there are also liaisons representing each of the monthly meetings who will communicate with the committee and connect each monthly meeting to the process.

It was recommended that the extracts of minutes initially developed in 2002 continue to be updated and posted for public access via the yearly meeting web site. Nancy Craft noted that earlier references to the extracts placed sole responsibility for updating with the recording clerk. The body approves this responsibility be shared by the yearly meeting clerks as a group.

Anne Olsen presented the Nominating Committee Report, which was approved with appreciation.

Nominating Committee Report

Discipline Revision: Bob Gosney has agreed to serve on the Discipline Revision Committee. The Nominating Committee reports that they feel that a total number of five members is sufficient.

FWCC: The Nominating Committee has approved adding Emily Stewart as a representative to FWCC. We still have one position open.

Yearly Meeting Planning 2014: The following names have been added to the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee: Judy Reese, Judy Purvis, Cheryl Fetterman, and Ray Treadway. Patty Levering and Bruce Arnold are also serving on this committee.

Traveling Support Committee: The Nominating Committee accepted the task of drafting a description of this committee to be submitted for approval by Representative Body in Fourth Month, 2014. The Nominating Committee hopes to submit names for approval to Representative Body in Fourth Month, 2014.

Nominating Committee: Durham has not named a representative to this committee. Durham Friends are aware of this vacancy.

Web Page Committee: Rebecca Ruhlen has resigned from the Web Page Committee. A replacement from Davidson Meeting needs to be named. Since Rebecca was also the convener, a new convener needs to be named.

To assist the Nominating Committee with identifying nominees and drafting a description for the Traveling Support Committee, it is suggested that the committee begin with three members.

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There is a lack of clarity regarding the Nominating Committee's role in identifying committee conveners. To assist committees in their work, it is recommended that the Nominating Committee strive to name conveners as a part of their work.

Patty Levering presented a brief report from the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee. The current working theme is "Cultivating Spiritual Depth Among Conservative Friends." Representatives were asked to suggest any specific topics or potential speakers to the Planning Committee for consideration.

Ministry and Oversight Clerk Kristin Olson-Kennedy requested that the Ministry and Oversight clerk and recording clerk (or designated person(s) serving that purpose) for each monthly meeting be included in future monthly meeting directory information to facilitate communication regarding the spiritual lives of our meetings. This request was approved.

Barbara Gosney reported on the work of Friends World Committee for Consultation and their change in practice to hold the Section of Americas meeting in alternate years and regional consultation meetings during other years. The next regional gathering will be in High Point, North Carolina, the weekend of Fourth Month 11- 13, 2014. The gathering will include Friends from the eastern United States, Canada, and the Caribbean. Friends are encouraged to attend. She provided an overview of workshops and programming planned for the event. Those living near High Point and/or central North Carolina transportation centers are encouraged to assist with hospitality. Additional information will be provided in early 2014.

Cheryl Fetterman reported back on two items that Wilmington Monthly Meeting was asked to consider. They are open to hosting the 2015 yearly meeting sessions Seventh Month 8 - 12, 2015. Wilmington Friends feels easy with their relationship with Wilmington Friends School and are comfortable with the yearly meeting including the school in annual donations to our Friends schools.

The tentatively scheduled representative body meeting for Fourth Month was approved to meet at Durham Friends Meeting the Fourth Month 26, 2014.

Following a brief period of waiting worship, the meeting closed to partake in a photo opportunity.

Nancy Craft, Clerk

Gwen Gosney Erickson, Recording Clerk

Minutes of the Representative Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Fourth Month 26, 2014

The Representative Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) convened at the Durham Friends meetinghouse in Durham, North Carolina on the 26th of Fourth Month, 2014. Following worship and lunch, the meeting opened with gathering worship, out of which the clerk read John 17:6-8:

I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

The minutes of Representative Body in Tenth Month, 2013 were read.

Anne Olsen presented the report of the Nominating Committee. Ray Treadway and Susan Lees have both agreed to serve on the Financial Review Committee. Ray has agreed to serve as convener. Friends approved Ray Treadway and Susan Lees for these roles. There are still some vacancies to be filled.

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Lloyd Lee Wilson brought up a concern for the timely reimbursement of two Friends who are requesting travel funds since the process that was approved during yearly meeting in Seventh Month, 2013 has not yet been implemented. Clarity is sought regarding how to proceed. The body approved payment of these requests. The nominating committee will continue to work on naming the new Travel Support Committee.

Lloyd Lee Wilson presented the Treasurer's Report, which was accepted. In response to questions, Lloyd Lee pointed out that we have a deficit budget this year and that some monthly meetings are experiencing financial stresses. We may need to consider how to reduce expenses in the absence of increased income.

Treasurer's Report – 3rd Quarter, 2014 North Carolina Yearly Meeting – Conservative

Income

Monthly meeting contributions are on target for this fiscal year, with most meetings having already made their contribution. Greenville Friends contributed \$5.00 more than the yearly meeting budgeted. Other income is also on track for this point in the year.

Expense

Most budgeted donations to organizations for this year have been made, and administrative expenses are on track for the year. There has been one request for financial support for travel on behalf of the yearly meeting in the amount of \$1,100. I have disbursed \$300.00, as allowed by yearly meeting policy, and referred the Friend to the Travel Support Committee which is to be named at the Spring Representative Body meeting.

Changes in Fund Balances Year to Date

The Discipline Fund balance is now \$2,281.00. The Discipline Fund is earmarked for paying the expense of reprinting the yearly meeting Discipline.

The FWCC Jamaica Fund has had no activity; the balance is unchanged at \$571.20. This money is held in trust for Jamaican Friends.

The General Travel Fund balance is \$4,063.40. This fund assists Friends who have travel expenses associated with representing NCYM-C on committees and organizations outside the yearly meeting.

The Journal Publication Fund balance now stands at \$2,300.20.

The Special Projects Restricted Fund has been charged \$600.00 for the contribution to the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund approved at the 2013 yearly meeting sessions. The Special Projects Fund is disbursed at the discretion of the yearly meeting in session. The current balance is now \$5,563.74.

The Yearly Meeting Sessions Reserve has been charged to cover the 2013 sessions deficit. Its balance is now \$1,293.52. This reserve fund is the cumulative net surplus of holding yearly meeting sessions over the years.

The Yearly Meeting Scholarship Fund paid out its entire balance to offset the expenses of Young Friends attending yearly meeting sessions this summer. Since the appeal made at Fall Representative Body for special donations from meetings and individuals to replenish this fund, donations have been received from West Grove and Durham meetings of \$200 each, bringing the current balance to \$400. West Grove has also pledged another \$200 to be paid in the second half

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of 2014. This fund provides financial assistance to pay for children attending yearly meeting sessions and to other Friends needing help to afford coming to yearly meeting sessions.

The Unrestricted Net Assets of the yearly meeting now stand at \$21,863.11.

Lloyd Lee Wilson, Treasurer
3/31/14

NCYM-C Balance Sheet (as of 3/31/2014)

ASSETS	March 31, 2014
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	38,322.08
Wells Fargo Checking	38,322.08
Total Checking/Savings	38,322.08
Total Current Assets	
Other Assets	16.99
Pre-paid web expense	16.99
Total Other Assets	16.99
TOTAL ASSETS	38,339.07
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current liabilities	
Other Current liabilities	
Prepaid MMtg Contributions	667.00
Total Other Current liabilities	667.00
Total Current liabilities	667.00
Total liabilities	
Equity	
Temp. Restricted Net Assets	
Discipline Fund	2,281.00
FWCC Jamaica Fund	571.20
General Travel Fund	4,063.40
Journal Publications Fund	2,300.20
Special Projects Fund	5,563.74
YMTg Sessions Reserve	1,293.52
YMTg Sessions Scholarship Fund	400.00
Total Temp. Restricted Net Assets	16,473.06
Unrestricted Net Assets	21,863.11
Net Income	-664.10
Total Equity	37,672.07
TOTAL LIABILITES & EQUITY	38,339.07

NCYM-C Income and Expenses

7/1/2013 – 3/31/2014

Ordinary Income/Expenses	
Income	12,408.00
Monthly Meeting Contributions	
Other Revenue	
Interest Earned	3.07
Miscellaneous Revenue	12.00

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Total Other Revenue	15.07
YMTg Sessions Income	
Book Store Revenue	466.13
YMTg Registration Fees	3,628.60
YMTg Room & Board Income	9,959.20
YMTg Scholarship Contributions	1,486.90
Total YMTg Sessions Income	15,540.83
Total Income	27,963.90
Gross Profits	
Expenses	
Donations and Grants	
Donations to Organizations	9,500.00
Total Donations and Grants	9,500.00
Operations	
Bank Charges	12.00
Postage, P.O. Box	146.08
Website Expenses	16.99
Total Operations	175.07
Printing and Copying	
Publication of Directory	187.26
Publication of Minute Book	956.96
Total Printing and Copying	1,144.22
Travel and Meetings	
Travel – General	300.00
Total Travel and Meetings	300.00
Yearly Meeting Session Expense	
Yearly Meeting Program Expense	
Book Store Expense	478.09
Insurance – Liability	216.00
Youth Program Expense	581.84
YlyMtg Program Exp. – Other	561.08
Total YlyMtg Program Expense	1,837.01
Yearly Meeting Room & Board	14,426.70
Yearly Meeting Site Expense	725.00
Yearly Meeting Site Use Fee	520.00
Total YlyMtg Sessions Expense	17,508.71
Total Expense	28,628.00
Net Ordinary Income	-664.10
Net Income	-664.10

Bruce Arnold presented the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee Reports.

<p>North Carolina Yearly Meeting – Conservative 2014 Program (details to be updated)</p>

<p>Fifth Day Evening, 10 Seventh Month</p>

<p><i>Panel: What Does It Mean to Be a Conservative Friend in North Carolina?</i></p>
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<p>Lloyd Lee Wilson (West Grove) – history</p>

<p>Carole Treadway (Friendship) – stories</p>
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Rachel Miller (Greenville) – growing up in the yearly meeting and telling others about Conservative Friends

Sixth Day Evening, 11 Seventh Month

Cultivating Spiritual Depth in Daily Life [title likely to change]

Liz Gates (Lancaster Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting) – Whether Liz has been in Kenya with her doctor husband Tom and their sons or in her monthly meeting in Lancaster, PA, or in active service with FWCC, she has had to find faith that sustains her in daily life.

Seventh Day Evening, 12 Seventh Month

Exploring Spiritual Gifts through Faith and Play™

Elizabeth Wintermute (Durham Meeting, NCYM-C) – An experienced teacher of Godly Play® and FGC's Faith and Play™, Elizabeth will use the curriculum as a window to engage us in intergenerational activities for learning about spiritual gifts.

Fifth day through First day mornings, 9 – 13 Seventh Month

Bible Study

Susan Wilson (Rich Square, NCYM-C) – Susan will invite us unto the spiritual journey, spiritual practices, and a dialogue to deepen our inward journey and inform our work in the world.

Seventh Day afternoon

Excursions –trips planned to places such as Mendenhall Plantation in Jamestown and to the Guilford woods. Watch for more definite information at yearly meeting.

Information about being Conservative Friends

The planning Committee will be providing a handout with points about what it means to be a Conservative Friend Based on a talk delivered to the Yearly meeting by Bill and Fran Taber

Interest groups

Check the schedule closer to Yearly meeting time to see what groups have signed up to present information about their programs.

NCYM(C) SCHEDULE Guilford College, 07/9-13/2014

Cultivating Spiritual Depth among Conservative Friends

Fourth day, 7/9/2014

2- 4:00 p.m.	Registration
4-5:00 p.m.	Worship under the care of M & O
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Supper (late dinner is available until 7)
5 – 7:00 p.m.	Registration
7 - 9:00 p.m.	Ministry and Oversight
9:00 p.m.	Snacks by West Grove and Rich Square

Fifth day, 7/10/2014

7 – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8-8:45 a.m.	Bible Study with Susan Wilson
9-12:00 noon	Business meeting
12 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1-3:00 p.m.	Business meeting
3:15-5:15 p.m.	Interest groups, contemplative practice
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Supper
6:30 – 7:00 p.m.	Intergenerational game, followed by the evening program

silent worship to begin

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7-8:30p.m.	<i>What Does It Mean to Be a Conservative Friend in North Carolina?</i> A Panel presentation with Lloyd Lee Wilson, Carole Treadway, and Rachel Miller
8:45 p.m.	Collection
9:00 p.m.	Snacks by Greenville and Wilmington
Sixth day, 7/11/2014	
7 – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8-8:45 a.m.	Bible study with Susan Wilson
9-11:00 a.m.	Business meeting
11-12 noon	Meeting for worship
12 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:30-3:30 p.m.	Meeting for business
3:45 – 5:15 p.m.	Interest Groups, Contemplative Practice
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Supper
6:30 - 7:00 p.m.	Intergenerational game, followed by silent worship to begin the evening program
7-8:30 p.m.	<i>Cultivating Spiritual Depth in Daily Life</i> , with Liz Gates
8:45 p.m.	Collection
9:00 p.m.	Snacks by Durham and Fayetteville
Seventh day, 7/12/2014	
7 – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8-8:45 a.m.	Bible study with Susan Wilson
9-12 noon	Business meeting
12 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1-3:00 p.m.	Business meeting
3:45 – 5:15 p.m.	Interest groups, Contemplative Practice, EXCURSIONS
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Supper
6:30 - 7	Intergenerational game, followed by silent worship to begin the evening program
7-8:30 p.m.	<i>Exploring Spiritual Gifts through Faith and Play™</i> , with Elizabeth Wintermute
8:45 p.m.	Collection
9:00 p.m.	Snacks by Davidson and Virginia Beach
First day, 7/13/2014	
7 – 8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
8-8:45 a.m.	Bible study with Susan Wilson
9-10:15 a.m.	Pack and turn in keys
10:30- _____	Worship
	Reading of the Summary of Exercises
12 noon	Lunch

Andrew Wright presented the planning progress for the yearly meeting children's program.

Ray Treadway presented spreadsheet regarding planning for registration and hospitality for 2014 yearly meeting sessions, including estimated expenses. A registration fee of \$40 is proposed. Total expense for double occupancy room and board would amount to \$225.

Lloyd Lee has reminded Ray of the costs for the liability insurance and some copying costs, which have been added to the spreadsheet. Ray did not hear anything new from the Youth Committee, and left the estimated costs of \$500. Patty has asked for some sense of the trends in adult registration, and the numbers have gone downward at Guilford College.

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For Guilford College:

Registered adults:	2008	112
	2010	84
	2012	65

If we assume that only sixty-five persons will show up, then we would have to charge at least \$50 per adult to break even. This just "seems" too high. It may discourage some from attending. I would like to be optimistic and trust that with sufficient "advertising," the numbers will go up. I hope that there will be some discussion of the registration fee at Representative Body. My recommendation is that we set the fee at \$40 and trust that the attendance will justify this amount.

Item	Cost	Adult Registrations	Cost each
Facilities at Guilford College	\$1,500.00		
Golf Cart	\$125.00		
Speaker Travel and Honorarium	\$500.00		
Speaker Room and Board	\$205.00		
Leader Travel and Honorarium	\$200.00		
Youth Program	\$500.00		
Liability Insurance	\$225.00		
Copying, programs, office costs	\$100.00		
	\$3,355.00		
Number of Adults in 2012		65	\$52
Possible Adults in 2014		80	\$42
What if		90	\$37

Friends approved that a line be added to the registration form encouraging people to donate funds to cover the fees for children and those who need financial support.

Friends reconsidered last fall's decision to add fifteen dollars to the registration fee to cover the expenses for children, since that would amount to a \$55 registration fee, which is felt to be too high. The clerk will contact monthly meetings and ask them to consider donations to support room and board for the yearly meeting's children in attendance at annual sessions.

Lloyd Lee Wilson presented the below report of the Discipline Revision Committee which was accepted with thanks for the committee's work of careful listening.

Report to Representative Body Fourth Month 26, 2014 Discipline Revision Committee

The Discipline Review Committee has met six times since the last yearly meeting sessions for worship and working sessions. Each meeting lasts about six hours and in addition to worship includes a shared meal prepared by Susan Wilson. Our times together have been blessed by a sense of the presence of our Teacher and Guide as we undertake this important work on behalf of the yearly meeting. In the times between our physical meetings, we are able to work collaboratively on the texts through the use of Google Docs.

All the monthly meetings have now named liaisons for the revision process, and all the liaisons have participated in the work of sharing proposed Discipline text with their monthly

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meetings. Again, the use of Google Docs enables the committee to share text with all the liaisons at the same time, and to ensure that everyone is working with the same proposed text.

The first section of revised text, concerning *Organization & Procedures*, was distributed to liaisons on schedule early in First Month. We have asked for responses from monthly meetings by today and have so far heard from six of the nine meetings. The process of revising the proposed text in light of comments from monthly meetings is now underway. We intend to present this draft of the section to yearly meeting in session this summer and will circulate this draft to monthly meetings in advance.

The committee is now completing revision of the part of *Organization & Procedures* that deals with membership. If our work progresses as planned, we intend to distribute a draft of this section to monthly meeting liaisons after yearly meeting sessions. We have tentatively chosen *Special Occasions* as our next task.

The Committee again recommends that the yearly meeting develop a Handbook of Policies and Procedures, to be distributed in addition to the Discipline. The Handbook would include descriptions of relevant policies and procedures established by the yearly meeting at a level of detail not appropriate for inclusion in the Discipline. A first draft of such a document could be the *Extracts of Minutes 1981-* commissioned by Representative Body in 2002 and recently updated through 2012. As a first step in consideration of this recommendation, the Committee recommends that the *Extracts* be posted on the yearly meeting web site. We will also gladly share a copy with any interested Friends. LLW continues as contact person for the committee: LloydLeeWilson@gmail.com.

As our committee has met over the past year we have felt, and continue to feel ourselves coming under the weight of a much larger process. We are listening to the Spirit teaching us who we have been and are as a yearly meeting, who we can be as a gathered people and how to speak to each other about what we've heard. We invite monthly meetings and individuals in the yearly meeting to see this work as something we are all under the weight of and to understand that we will all be stretched and changed along the way. We trust that the Spirit is at work in this process even though it feels challenging at times. We believe that it is a real opportunity for us to come to know one another better, to sink deeper into the beloved community.

Blessings,
Lloyd Lee Wilson

Marguerite Dingman presented a report giving dates of the FGC gathering for 2015, which uncharacteristically overlap with the usual dates of our yearly meeting sessions.

I talked with Cathy and David Bridge, co-clerks of Durham Meeting, about the overlapping schedules of our Yearly Meeting sessions and the FGC Gathering next year (2015.) They would like the Yearly Meeting to be aware of the situation and approved of me bringing the information to Representative Body. I am aware that the FGC Planning Committee knew of the situation and found the change in their schedule to be unavoidable. The FGC Gathering will be held at Western Carolina University on Seventh Month, 5th through 11th days, 2015. We understand that Yearly Meeting routinely meets beginning on the second 4th day of the month, which would put our sessions on the 8th through the 12th in 2015. Because it is being held in North Carolina and because two of Durham Meeting's members (Joe and Terry Graedon) are clerking the 2015 FGC Gathering, we anticipate larger than usual participation from our meeting in the FGC Gathering in 2015

The body approved a change in yearly meeting dates, to be from Seventh Month 15 - 19, 2015. Cheryl Fetterman will look into the availability of facilities in Wilmington.

Lloyd Lee Wilson brought up that Piedmont Friends Fellowship (PFF) is going forward with becoming a yearly meeting. Discussion clarified that this would be a Yearly Meeting and Association. This would allow meetings, which already have membership in a yearly meeting to

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continue having an association with PFF without affecting their yearly meeting membership at all.

Andrew Wright shared a proposal for a Regional Youth Ministries Committee. The proposal came from Durham Meeting's Youth Ministries Program. The proposal would involve cooperation between our Yearly Meeting and the Piedmont Friends Fellowship's youth program. The proposal is attached below. It will be sent to the monthly meetings and will be brought up for discernment at yearly meeting sessions.

Proposal for a Regional Youth Ministries Committee

Durham Friends Meeting Youth Ministries Committee proposes the formation of a committee composed of representatives from NCYM-C and PFF that would listen for the guidance of the Spirit in bringing forth programs for Young Friends in the region. Such a committee would support meetings of all sizes to provide Quaker programs for Young Friends. Such a committee at the yearly meeting and regional fellowship level would allow smaller meetings to be included in care and leadership roles for such a program, whereas now mainly the larger meetings feel empowered to offer the leadership in these sorts of activities.

First Step: Discernment Committee

PFF meets in March of 2014 and NCYM-C meets in Seventh Month, 2014. Each body is encouraged to consider their support for this proposal during their annual meetings. In particular, each body is asked to commit to appoint representatives for one year to a discernment committee. This committee is given several tasks over the period of Ninth Month, 2014 through Fifth Month, 2015.

To discern the need and scope for such a committee:

1. To discern and recommend the formal structure for a Joint Young Friends Committee, including numbers of representatives, annual schedule for committee meetings, and a more specific committee description.
2. To organize a report on the various ad-hoc activities for Young Friends that have occurred over the last few years.
3. To suggest a plan and an outline for Young Friends events and activities in the region over the coming 3 years.
4. To suggest a process for developing a safety document specific to the needs of any future events and activities.
5. To work with PFF and NCYM-C nominating structures to propose names of individuals for this committee as well as terms of service.
6. To build a spreadsheet of contacts in each meeting as well as families in the region with Young Friends of various ages.
7. To consider any budgetary needs for such a committee as well as begin a conversation as to how these needs might be provided for.

Meanwhile, over the same year:

Individuals and meetings would be encouraged to take leadership in experimenting with a few retreats and other programs for various ages. These activities would arise more organically according to the interests and leadings of the individuals and communities providing leadership. These individuals and meetings would be encouraged to report to the discernment committee regarding their plans as well as how these events worked-out. Several such ideas have been suggested for next year and are offered here as examples, but not as assignments or expectations.

1. Durham Friends Meeting is considering sponsoring three weekend middle school retreats again in 2014-2015.
2. PFF representatives have explored organizing one or more high school retreats in 2014-2015.
3. A daylong elementary program might be offered at some point during the fall or winter.
4. Both the 2015 PFF gathering as well as the 2015 sessions of NCYM-C could be held out as opportunities of hospitality for youth from both groups to come together for activities, even

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though the primary care and responsibility for programming at each of these two youth events would be carried-out by the constituent meetings and committees of the host organization.

Second Step: Report from Discernment Committee

The 2014-2015 Discernment Committee will report to PFF in March of 2015 and to NCYM-C in Seventh Month, 2015. The report will include the report on recent years' activities, a recommendation for whether to go forward with an on-going regional youth ministries committee, a proposal for the specifics of such a committee, and an outline for a schedule of events over the following three years. The report should also provide evidence for whether there is a commitment for such a committee through inclusion of names of those interested in being active as leaders and contacts from various meetings as well as letters from monthly meetings that are committed to supporting this work. A preliminary proposed budget should also be provided.

Meetings are encouraged to look into the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Meeting/Church Liaison program.

Thanks were expressed to Margie Dingman for stepping in as recording clerk and to Durham Monthly Meeting for their hospitality today.

The meeting closed after a brief period of waiting worship.

Nancy Craft, Clerk

Marguerite Dingman, Recording Clerk for the day

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

The following Friends volunteered to prepare epistles, letters, and the Summary of Exercises: Letter to Absent Friends – Barbara Gosney; Summary of Exercises – Richard Miller; Epistle to All Friends Everywhere – Barbara Gosney; Epistle to Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative and Epistle to Ohio Yearly Meeting – Robert Gosney and Susan Lees. Additional Friends are asked to volunteer to assist in these efforts, especially with the Summary of Exercises and Epistle to All Friends Everywhere, as those requires multiple participants.

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

Epistles from Ohio Yearly Meeting and Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) were read.

Ohio Yearly Meeting:

There is one body and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Ephesians 4:4-7

Dear Brothers and Sisters of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative),

Blessings in the Lord in whom we are one. Not many years ago, we began our epistle to you with Ephesians 4:1-3, knowing that the third verse is incorporated into your advices read at the close of your yearly meeting sessions. This year we continue sharing from Ephesians 4, not because you chose to share verses 3-6 with us this year, but because Bob Gosney has shared wonderful insights in all of the letter to the Ephesians, with a special emphasis on 4:1-16, and because verses 4-6 underline the basis for the oneness which has long been between us. We chose to add verse 7 to underscore that grace has been given to you and to us, and has been shared with us by you through the presence of, not only Bob Gosney, but also Barbara Gosney and Nancy Craft.

This year vocal ministry has reminded us of the nearness of our Lord, and our dependence upon Him for the power to obey Him. We have been reminded of Jesus's great

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compassion as well as His healing. Both vocal ministry and written correspondence have admonished us to show compassion.

We have been called to truly seek, to listen, and to draw near, allowing all this to change us, and to bring about a resurrection of our spirits.

As the week of our yearly meeting progresses and we interact, the love of God works within us and enlarges our love for one another. Gathering to sit on the stiff meeting house benches to seek unity among us we are shown that our spirits too are stiff with bias and areas of blindness, with need for trusting the great Creator and Savior. We are taught in these “teachable moments” that the very present Holy Spirit can disperse the darkness in us, showing us a way forward in His own time. He is not up in the heavens looking down on us wondering what will happen next. Our sense of urgency wants to push our own agenda, overriding our trust in the Wisdom from above. We praise the Lord for our heritage that has taught us to wait in the Power of Christ Jesus.

May the grace that we have each been given continue to be shared as the Lord continues to use us in the building of His church.

The children of Junior Yearly Meeting provide us with joy as we hear them playing and wondering out loud. We are also grateful for their adult leaders, who bring the children opportunities to encounter Christ and learn to respond to Him.

In the Light and Love of Our Lord,
Seth B. Hinshaw, Clerk
Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative):

*Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands,
Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing.
-Psalm 100: 1-2, KJV*

Friends from nearly a dozen states representing more than 20 monthly meetings in the US and Canada, gathered for a week in late July and early August to consider the theme “Make a Joyful Noise”. Amidst lush green cornfields surrounding the campus of Scattergood Friends School, we met to seek God’s will in attending to the business of the Yearly Meeting. We continued in this joyful practice, which we have observed previously for 135 years.

Our first evening gathering titled “Expressing our joy”, featured a panel of Friends who shared elements of their lives that bring them joy. These joy experiences included awareness of connection with nature, of the joy of parenting, of the satisfaction of doing work that enhances children's lives, and of the joy of a new found relationship with Jesus. One panel member noted that when she experiences authentic joy, she really needs to share it somehow. In the discussion that followed, and in many experiences of the week, we came to understand that that the seeds of joy are intertwined with gratitude, awe, beauty wonder and connection.

There were many opportunities for Friends to connect and share their joy throughout the week. Programs and interests ranged broadly from sessions that included how to build a library in Kenya, to how to remain faithful, to how to support and encourage vocal ministry, to how to do something about environmental justice concerns. A folk concert by a Young Friend gave a different voice to the issues of our various concerns. Most days began with quiet worship and bible study and concluded with group singing. Much of the joy of Iowa Yearly Meeting in session is in shared effort as we labor with each other, and as we are served and serve one another. Much joy is experienced in small circles and quiet conversations. One friend described the spiritual refreshment and change that she experiences as a weeklong embrace; another stated that our joy comes from the "Source". This was affirmed in the presentation by visiting Friend Deborah

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Shaw, who spoke to the passage from John 15:11, that our joy is complete in our reciprocal relationship with the Spirit.

As a Yearly Meeting, we are especially grateful for the presence, energy and vitality of a larger group of junior yearly meeting youth and young friends than have been able to participate in past years. Once again their management of and participation in the talent show closed our week with great joyfulness.

Through the week, we were graced with much joyful noise, much joyful quiet, and serving each other with gladness. And we go forth to do the same.

In God's love,
Deborah Dakin, clerk
Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

6. Report from the Epistle Committee

Susan Lees presented a request from the Epistle Committee asking for guidance in how our yearly meeting corresponds with other yearly meetings. How assertive do we wish to be in sending and receiving epistles? How are epistles best communicated to the other yearly meetings? Do we only gather epistles sent directly to our yearly meeting or shall the epistle committee seek out epistles from those that do not send to us by locating epistles through web postings or sending direct requests. We used to receive many through the mail and that is not happening. Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) is encouraging yearly meetings to post epistles on FWCC web site to facilitate communication and sharing among meetings and our epistle is currently posted to that site.

Friends stressed the importance of communication and outreach, especially to other Friends associations in our region and the wider world of Friends, to share and celebrate our faith with others.

7. Report from the Nominating Committee (part one)

Nominating Committee convener Anne Olsen read a list of committee positions and appointments the Nominating Committee is seeking to fill. Friends were ask to consider these positions and encouraged to speak with Ann if they have questions or feel led to be considered for these by the Nominating Committee.

8. Reports from the Monthly Meetings

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

Report for Davidson Friends Meeting

Monthly Meeting Officers

Clerk: Jan Blodgett
Recording Clerk: Kristin Olson-Kennedy / David Perry
Treasurer: Barbara Gardiner

Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2014 Sessions

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

Membership

Davidson Friends Meeting has seventeen adult members.

We gained no new members this year by application or transfer.

We lost no members through laying down of membership or transfer. However, member Susan Olsen (Susie) Lawson died Eighth Month 11, 2013. Sonja Elaine Bakke Krummel died Fourth Month 2, 2014, after changing from being a sojourning member and becoming a full member of the meeting in First Month.

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

Report for Durham Monthly Meeting

Monthly Meeting Officers

Co-Clerks: Cathy and David Bridges (beginning 9/2013)
Assistant Clerk: Marguerite Dingman (beginning 9/2013)
Recording Clerks: Jessica Barnhill (beginning 9/2013), Edna Collins (beginning 9/2013)
Treasurer: Larry Chapman (ending 9/2014);
Tim Allen (beginning 9/2014)

Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2014 Sessions

Marguerite Dingman, Kent Wicker, Karen Stewart, Andrew Wright, John March, and others as are able to attend.

Active Members and Attenders

97 adult members and 275 adult attenders.

Births and Deaths

The meeting celebrated two births; one baby to a long-term attender and another born to a member.

Member and long-time attender, Eileen Schlossnagle transitioned from this world. Durham Friends Meeting held a memorial in celebration of her life in the meetinghouse on Eighth Month 17, 2013. The warmth of her love continues.

Marriages under the Care of the Meeting

Emily Stewart and Ryan Nilsen (married Fifth Month 24, 2014)

Support of Ministry

The meeting currently has Support and Accountability Committees, shepherded by Ministry and Counsel, nurturing the ministries of Andrew Wright, Deborah Wallace, Toby Berla, and Scott Holmes.

Advices

The Advices were read.

Report from Fayetteville Monthly Meeting

Monthly Meeting Officers

Clerk: Susan Lees
Recording Clerk: Robert Cooper
Treasurer: Susan Lees

Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2014 Sessions

Robert Cooper, Susan Lees, Darlene Hopkins

Membership, Births, Deaths, and Marriages

Fayetteville Friends Meeting has 9 adult members and 2 attenders, both of whom are Quakers elsewhere.

We gained 1 member this year by transfer.

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

There were no births of children to report and no new marriages under the care of the meeting.

Ministers and Elders

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No ministers or elders were recorded this year.

Advices

The advices were read and discussed.

Report from Friendship Monthly Meeting

Monthly Meeting Officers

Clerk: Sidney Lee Kitchens
Co-Clerk: Neil Swenson
Treasurer: Stephen Holland
Assistant Treasurer: Ray Treadway
Recording Clerk: Hannah Logan Morris

Changes in Membership

The changes in our membership rolls were as follows:

We lost three members to death:

Rachel Benfey passed away on Ninth Month 22, 2013

Mary Green passed away on Tenth Month 20, 2013

Dorothy Nielsen passed away on First Month 9, 2014

Two members transferred their membership to other Meetings:

Breanyn MacInnes to University Friends Mtg. Seattle on Eighth Month 13, 2013

Al Carwile to New Garden Mtg. Greensboro, NC on Fifth Month 11, 2014

We welcomed four new members this past year:

Walt Denny and Stephen Holland on 8th month 13, 2013

Lissa Carter and Mike Scott on Ninth Month 8th, 2013

Six Friends from other meetings had their memberships transferred to Friendship:

Anne Rouse (as Sojourner) from Third Haven Mtg. Easton, Md. on Tenth Month 13, 2013

B. Grace Sullivan from Hanover Mtg. New Hampshire

Howard Taylor from Hanover Mtg. New Hampshire

Kim Carlyle from Swannanoa Valley Mtg. Black Mtn., NC

Susan Carlyle also from Swannanoa Valley Mtg. Black Mtn. NC

Susan Wilson (as Sojourner) from Rich Square MM, NC

Our membership total is now 105 (including 7 sojourners)

Ministers and Elders

Friendship Meeting did not record any elders or ministers in the last year.

Report from Greenville Monthly Meeting

Monthly Meeting Officers

Clerk: Bruce Arnold
Recording Clerk: Richard Miller
Treasurer: Guy Burgess

Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2014 Sessions

Bruce Arnold, Richard Miller, Mary Miller, Rachel Miller, Mark Miller, and any other member attending sessions.

Changes in membership

One new member, Guy Burgess.

No member deaths. No births. We have 9 members and 8 attenders.

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Ministers and Elders

Bruce Arnold was recorded as a Minister of the Gospel. Mary Miller, Richard Miller, and Joanne Holden are Elders. Mary Miller is Overseer.

Advices and Queries

The Advices were read and the queries answered.

Report from Rich Square Monthly Meeting

Monthly Meeting Officers

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

Changes in membership

46 adult members, no children
One new member: Robert M. Parker
One member's death: Elizabeth G. Parker on Sixth Month 11, 2014
No new memberships by birth
Three new regular attenders: Kasha and Bryan Herek and their one year old daughter Suzie

Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2014 Sessions

Judith V. Reece, W. Carey Reece, Edward Pearce, Robert E. Gosney, Barbara C. Gosney

Ministers and Elders

Rich Square Monthly Meeting has no newly recorded ministers or elders.

Advices Read

Rich Square Meeting heard the Advices read on First Month 5, 2014 during meeting for worship.

Report from Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting

Monthly Meeting Officers

Clerk: Patricia Phelan Young
Recording Clerk: Andrew "Andy" Young
Treasurer: David French
MEO Clerk: Nancy Nixon

Representatives to Yearly Meeting 2014 Sessions

Ruth Ann Childress, Nancy Craft, Houston and Linda Shirk, and others who are able to attend Yearly Meeting sessions are to be considered our representatives.

Representatives named to Representative Body Meeting

Ruth Anne Childress, Nancy Craft, Keith Williamson, David French

Changes in membership

New member 8/11/2013: Linda Tingle Shirk.
Transfer out 9/8/13 Carol (Arnold) Oste to Goose Creek (Baltimore Yearly Meeting)
Deaths: Mary Talley (9/7/213), Walter Roberts "Bob" McIvor (4/15/2014), Wyman Harrison (5/26/2014), and Helen Louise Brown Wilson (6/23/2014)
No births to report.

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Total Membership: Active Members 63, and 54 Inactive Members.

Ministers and Elders

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting has no newly recorded ministers or elders. Current Ministers and Elders:

<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Elders</u>
Paula Justice	Nancy Craft
	Andrew Young
	Patricia Phelan Young

Advices Read

We read the Advices to Meeting in the face of the Meeting during the Sixth Month.

Report from West Grove Monthly Meeting

Monthly Meeting Officers

Clerk: Charles Ansell
Recording Clerk: Charles Newlin
Treasurer: Lloyd Lee Wilson

Representatives to Yearly Meeting

Lloyd Lee Wilson and Charles Newlin

Changes in Membership

One member relinquished membership— 7 active adult members, 1 active young member. There were no births or deaths.

Ministers and Elders

Elders: Dixie Newlin, Janis Ansell, Charles Ansell
Ministers: Lloyd Lee Wilson

Advices Read

The Queries were answered and the Advices read in the face of meeting.

Report from Wilmington Friends Meeting

Monthly Meeting Officers

Clerk: Goldie Walton
Assistant Clerk: Cheryl Fetterman
Recording Clerk: Daylene Moore
Treasurer: David Hensler

Representatives to Yearly Meeting

Goldie Walton and Cheryl Fetterman

Membership

We have 29 members and 38 attenders with a consistent weekly attendance of approximately twelve to eighteen.

Wilmington Friends did not record any births or marriages this year. We did suffer the death of our dear Friend Bill Ratliff in Tenth Month.

Ministers and Elders

No ministers or elders were recorded this year.

Advices Read

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The Advices were read the Queries answered.

9. Friends Committee on National Legislation Report

Eric Ginsburg read the 2013-2014 FCNL Program Report to Yearly Meetings. The report provided an update on the mission and activities of FCNL. It highlighted the November 2013 approval of a new statement on legislative policy, "The World We Seek," which was developed in consultation with meetings and is used to set FCNL's legislative priorities.

10. William Penn House Report

Eric Ginsberg read a report from Byron Sanford of the William Penn House in Washington, D.C. Hospitality continues to be a continuing service and mission. The work camp programs are expanding beyond Washington, D.C. Programs and projects that seek to build bridges through working, living, and learning together are a priority. William Penn House will be celebrating its fiftieth anniversary as a Quaker facility in 2015. The following year the building will be celebrating its centennial and Byron Sanford will be transition to welcome a new director.

11. Quaker House Report

Bob Cooper read the Quaker House Report for 2013-2014 on behalf of Directors Lynn and Steve Newsom.

During this last year at Quaker House, we sponsored many activities and programs to reach out to the Fayetteville and Ft. Bragg communities; worked to build bridges and establish connections within the military; established a Domestic Violence Victims' Support Program for military related; counseled active military service members, AWOL service members, and veterans; traveled to present programs at many Meetings, churches, and conferences; wrote articles for newspapers and magazines; developed presentations for children; and sponsored or co-sponsored peace and social justice events.

Forums we sponsored included the subjects of human trafficking, drones (featuring Medea Benjamin, co-founder of Code Pink), torture, and domestic violence. The Baptist Peacemakers of North America came to Quaker House for a "Friendship Tour," and we were featured in their newsletter.

We attend Chaplains' Meetings at Ft. Bragg and the chaplains came to visit Quaker House for the first time in our history. We are members of 4 groups that are alliances of community and military members: Community Blueprint, Behavioral Health Professionals Association, the North Carolina Spiritual Wellness Alliance, and the Bragg Region Behavioral Healthcare Collaboration Meeting.

We continue to work with QUIT (the Quaker Initiative to End Torture) and North Carolina Stop Torture Now to work against torture and for accountability. We created postcards supporting John Kiriakou and sent postcards to Senators Burr and Feinstein and President Obama to release the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Report on torture. We were co-sponsors of a vigil outside Senator Burr's office. NC Stop Torture Now has been credited with being most influential in getting the report approved to be released. John Kiriakou has offered to do a fundraiser for Quaker House after he is released.

Our counselors, Lenore Yarger and Steve Woolford, continue to be very busy with soldiers who need help. There is an increase in Conscientious Objection applicants and soldiers who are being released involuntarily from the military on incorrect charges such as "personality disorder" when they actually have PTSD and/or TBI. Such less than honorable discharges strip soldiers and their families from vital medical and mental health benefits. We are blessed to have a psychiatrist who volunteers her time to diagnose these soldiers correctly. Steve and Lenore have been contacted by the media for information on these cases. We are helping many service

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members receive the medical benefits they deserve.

We continue to offer Mindfulness classes which are helpful to soldiers suffering from PTSD and TBI and their spouses. We also continue to host music concerts and jams which attract diverse community and military members.

Our Alternatives to Violence Project training included military and Veteran's Association social workers and a chaplain. The Ft. Bragg Family Advocacy program director sent out the information on it to all the social workers on base. The North Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and the Licensed Professional Counselors Association of North Carolina asked to co-sponsor these trainings and provide CEU's. We believe we now have enough people trained in AVP to have the first successful program in North Carolina.

Our Domestic Violence Victims' Support Program provided counseling to many victims, several of whom come regularly each week for therapy. Our therapist, Joanna, attends events in the civilian and military communities to speak about our program and raise awareness about issues of domestic violence in the military. She and Lynn were interviewed on a local radio station. The interview can be heard on our website.

We co-sponsored with the North Carolina Council of Churches, many churches, veterans and mental health organizations, a 2 day conference in Raleigh titled, "Carolina Soul Repair Journey: Recovering from Moral Injury after War." This was the first conference on this important issue in the Eastern United States. The VA is now recognizing moral Injury as a type of PTSD, which will hopefully open new doors for us in our work to help service members get Conscientious Objection status. Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock, co-author of the book Soul Repair and founding Co-Director of the Soul Repair Center at Brite Divinity School in Texas, was the featured speaker. Quaker House was the registrar and fiscal agent for the conference, so everyone who registered used our website. Since the conference, Lynn developed a presentation on Moral Injury and has been asked by Army OneSource to give this presentation throughout the state.

It has been a very busy, but extremely rewarding, year. Our new connections with military personnel are very valuable and helpful. We feel that we are able to support more effectively our wounded service members at a time when they badly need our help. We are committed to reaching out to the larger Quaker community as well as other faith communities to help others understand the struggles and pain that our service members, veterans and their families are suffering. We believe that faith communities need to minister to them and help them heal in spirit as well as body. "That of God" in them has been damaged by the 12 years of the war machine; we need to help them recover their Spirits.

12. Virginia Beach Friends School Report

Marguerite Dingman read the Virginia Beach Friends School Report.

Greetings to all Friends from the faculty and staff of Virginia Beach Friends School.

We have come to the end of a busy, enriching and exciting academic year. The greatest strength of the school continues to be the exceptional faculty and staff who love the school and making a difference in the lives of their students. Through the dedication and hard work of the faculty, the school made strides in improved academic rigor. We also introduced new programs in technology and the fine and performing arts.

Some of the highlights of the school year were exemplified through our commitment to community service including serving dinner to the homeless, supporting Native American organizations and participating in a vegetable growing community outreach program. The school continues its deep commitment to the Testimony of Environmental Stewardship including involvement with the *Chesapeake Bay Foundation* and the *Lynnhaven River Now Organization*. Oyster gardening and growing and planting of grasses to prevent erosion are at the forefront. We have also installed our first beehive! Virginia Beach Friends School won the Pearl School award for outstanding environmental education in Virginia Beach

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for the ninth consecutive time this year. In addition, our Middle School students involved in a new environmental sustainability program throughout the year.

Through a great deal of hard work by School Committee, the Director of Advancement and faculty, the school's Annual fund has grown by 25%. A new Board of Visitors is being convened to assist School Committee attain the goals of their Strategic Plan. We had a wonderful Founders Day event in April this year when we celebrated our beloved founder, Louise Wilson who honored us with her presence and made the night all the more special.

Our athletic program has grown considerably, producing champion and runner-up teams in volleyball and basketball. We introduced cross country and baseball to our list of sports and they have both been well received by the Community.

Spiritual Life within the school was directed by students who have formed a Young Leaders Committee. They presented an Introduction to Quakerism and Meeting for Worship to the students during the first semester. They also ran our Peace and Social Justice event and initiated a school-wide peer mentoring program.

The school enjoyed many successes this academic year and our accreditation was renewed. Lower than optimal enrollment continues to be our greatest challenge. However, we were pleased that we ended with 171 students compared to 147 the year before. We hope that this positive trend in enrollment will continue. Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank North Carolina Yearly Meeting for its continued support of our wonderful school.

Linda Settette, Head of School

13. Friends Emergency Material Assistance Program (FEMAP) Report

Judy Reece reports on the FEMAP program that was established three years as an all-volunteer organization when the American Friends Service Committee's EMAP program was laid down. The group has shipped or delivered 600 kits over the past year for shelters locally, North Carolina migrant workers, and other locations in the U.S. and internationally.

14. Trustee Report for the Travel in the Ministry Fund

Marguerite Dingman read the report submitted by trustees W. Carey Reece, Jr., and David Perry.

Balance on Hand, 6/30, 2013: \$4,820.32

Reimbursements for the Year: None

Receipts for the Year:

Interest (annual): \$2.41

Balance on Hand, 6/30/2014: \$4,822.73

Payments for Travel in the Ministry:

Although there have been no requests for assistance from the Travel in the Ministry Fund for the year, the Yearly Meeting needs to continue to search for other avenues of income to support this important commitment.

Friends are encouraged to apply for assistance from the Travel in the Ministry Fund. A brief history and an application are posted on the Yearly Meeting website.

Funds are presently held in a Wells Fargo Business Performance Savings Account. The trustees have completed the necessary paperwork for the transfer of funds to the Friends Fudiciary Corporation. The transfer will occur in Sixth Month, 2014.

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

15. Friends Historical Collection Report

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Gwen Gosney Erickson provided an introduction to the Friends Historical Collection and gave a report of highlights from the past year. She has recently returned from a semester sabbatical leave that included serving as a Friend in Residence at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham, England, for three months. While away from the Guilford campus, she focused time on Friends Historical Collection facilities and operational planning for the future, gave workshop presentations on Quaker anti-slavery efforts to North Carolina classroom and museum educators, and presented on Quaker records and research at an American Library Association pre-conference and at the Conference of Quaker Historians and Archivists. She also announced the recent launch of a new digital resource, Textiles, Teachers, and Troops (library.uncg.edu/dp/ttt/), which includes the Mary Mendenhall Hobbs manuscript collection and other resources relating to North Carolina Friends and the history of Guilford College.

16. 2015 Friends General Conference Update

Teresa and Joseph Graedon presented in their roles as co-clerks of the 2015 Friends General Conference Gathering, which will be held at Western Carolina University in Cullowee, North Carolina. They expressed appreciation to the yearly meeting for adjusting dates for the 2015 yearly meeting sessions to assist Friends participation in both events next summer. They provided an overview of key themes and planned featured speakers. Friends are needed to assist with planning committee work if so led. They concluded with a request for assistance in getting the word out about the event since the timing is different from past years and is being held in North Carolina.

17. New Garden Friends School Report

Ari Betof provided an update on New Garden Friends School and announced the school's new tuition exchange partnership with Guilford College.

18. State of the Society Reports

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

Davidson Monthly Meeting

To build a meetinghouse is a risky thing. We have now been in our meetinghouse for over a year, and we are clear that taking the risk has been a source of blessing for us and for our community. Having made many major decisions about the building comfortably, this year we wrestled with adding benches to our meeting room. We have proceeded slowly in order to maintain unity, and thanks to West Grove we are enjoying a few of their old benches giving a sense of history to our new meetinghouse. We have also learned that we are able, especially with the leadership and gifts of our Building and Grounds committee, to take care of what we have built. Interior and exterior upkeep have happened smoothly.

We are a more visible presence in the community and more able to be found by seekers. We have had more newcomers and occasional visitors. In Fourth Month we had a newcomers' forum that, to our delight, brought a newspaper story about us. The article invited people to the forum, and six strangers came, but just as importantly it told about our Peace and Social Concern Committee's concern for civil discourse in the political realm.

We continue to share the use of the building. The chaplain at Davidson College who graciously helped us be allowed to use space at the college for many years is now regularly using our space for two retreats he holds annually with student religious leaders. We continue to allow the town of Davidson to use it for their needs, we have had a number of yoga classes, and a local

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writers' group used it for a workshop with a visiting poet and hope to use it again. We receive some income from contributions for use of the space, but outreach to the community has been equally important.

In the past year we have learned about how to live and die well. Two beloved members of the meeting, Susan Olsen Lawson and Sonja Elaine Bakke Krummel, have died. Each has faced illness with courage and grace and died with equanimity and peace. We mourn their loss, but we have rejoiced in having their memorial services in a building that reflects who we are, and in a space that they were part of creating. On both occasions the space served family members well and the building was full. Many people from outside the meeting attended and spoke appreciatively to us about the space. We even have had two non-Quaker families request to use the building and follow something of a Quaker format for memorial services at the time of their need.

Meeting for worship on First Day, with an average attendance of 20-25, continues to be the center of our meeting. Both the vocal ministry and the silence are rich and have life. Even new people can sense the settling and deepening that happen in the worship time. Fellowship following worship and during game nights and potlucks strengthens our community and is important to us. We especially enjoy our talent café event in late January. Adults and children play music, read poetry (theirs or others), perform skits, and more.

Many Friends in our meeting participate in the wider circle of Friends—in yearly meeting including being on committees, Piedmont Friends Fellowship, Friends General Conference, Friends World Committee for Consultation, School of the Spirit Ministry, Quaker Spring. We have had spiritual care committees for three Friends in order to encourage and hold accountable the gifts coming through them in their call to ministry.

For several years it has been hard to maintain a First Day School program. This year a new committee took over. They have selected curricula for an older group and a younger group and have found teachers for the whole year. We appreciate the maturing of our younger Friends and feel grateful for the work of those who have volunteered.

Reviewing this year our hearts are warmed as we recognize how the Spirit has provided for and sustained us.

Durham Monthly Meeting

“At its best, a Quaker Meeting is not just a collection of individual seekers, but a community of faith, a covenant community, knit together by our common seeking of God. We are like spokes on a wheel: as we draw nearer to our center in God, we also draw closer to each other... Differences and disappointments are inevitable, but in a faith community these are seen not as obstacles, but as opportunities for transformation. God calls us into community because it is only in community that we learn God's transforming lessons of love, service, compassion, and forgiveness.” (Thomas Gates, PHP #371 - Members One of Another).

Durham Friends Meeting (DFM) has continued to grow in numbers this past year. Meeting announcements and notifications go out to an ever-increasing database of well over 350 individuals, our First-Day school program includes around 150 youths, and Meetings for Worship typically involve 70-80 members and attenders. A significant proportion of the attenders are relative newcomers to our meeting. About 50% of the people that attend DFM started worshipping with us within the past 10 years and each First Day seems to bring a handful of visitors. Although this interest in Quakerism is warmly welcomed and exciting in and of itself, it brings a unique set of complexities to what seemed simple in distant memory. The Meeting's size and swift pace of growth directly affects everything we do, but perhaps is most noticeable in our

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communications, care and support, hospitality, and space use. One consequence of this growth is the ongoing need to inform and educate about Quaker process. Some in our community have experienced fatigue or burn-out under these challenges. We continue to explore ways to bring God's Light into all the activities that strengthen and support the spokes of our wheel.

As the introductory quote indicates, these challenges and those offered to us by last year's difficult discernment process concerning our financial and spiritual support of Carolina Friends School have served as opportunities for transformation. We have spent much of this year listening deeply to each other through the work of Ministry and Counsel, Adult Education Forums, Nominating Committee, Care and Support, Fellowship Committee, Business Meeting, and the Facilities and Use Committee. On two separate occasions of discernment, the Clerks of Committees have met together to share information and concerns that they can then take back to their respective committees.

We have responded to several leadings that emerged from these challenges.

- For eight consecutive months, starting with Ninth Month, 2013, DFM's Co-clerks started each Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business with a short presentation of Friendly Advices on various aspects of Quaker practice and process. The presentation has been disseminated to all members and regular attenders prior to each Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business for previewing as well as for subsequent reflection.
- In addition to the annual Quakerism 101 class, we continue to have two long-term members of the community offer an informal question and answer session twice a month following the rise of worship.
- In Twelfth Month, our Education Committee led a well-attended forum that focused on the Pendle Hill Pamphlet quoted at the beginning of this report.
- DFM's All-Meeting Retreat, held earlier this year during Second Month, centered on the theme, "Deepening our Spiritual Life Together." One result of that retreat has been a sense that a meeting as large as ours needs to facilitate a system of small groups for spiritual study and growth.
- We have continued from last year with the discernment process concerning how we might finish the lower level of our meetinghouse to create more space for First Day school, committee meetings, and organization.

These efforts have already borne initial fruit. In addition to a slight rise in attendance at Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business (averaging 25-35 people, with most people remaining throughout the meetings), we are seeing more awareness develop in how and why we conduct the business of our meeting, the processes of decision making, the letting go of personal thoughts and notions, slowing down the discussions among Friends and the need to address questions and comments to the clerks. There seems to be a generally expressed hunger for more opportunities to be coordinated for study groups, prayer groups, and spiritual nurture groups. And, we have noted the emergence within DFM of a strongly committed core of young adults, ranging in age from 25 to 40. We acknowledge that any garden requires nurturing and time and we trust there are many more seeds planted — both seen and unseen — that will grow and contribute to DFM's spiritual harvest.

We continue to spend about 20 to 30 minutes each month on our YM monthly queries during business meeting. Since YM is working on the revised NC Yearly Discipline, we have decided to record a deeper level of our spirit-led worship sharing of the NCYM-C queries each month. We have been enriched by our deep discernment over these queries and would like to have them recorded for our larger community and for the YM for consideration as to how the queries are speaking to us as a community.

Other items important in the spiritual life of DFM in this past year include the following events:

- DFM helped establish the Hillsborough Worship Group and has placed it under the care of our meeting. The Hillsborough Worship Group also is supported by the Chapel Hill

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Friends Meeting. Public Meetings for Worship started on the 1st day of Ninth Month, 2013 and a few members of DFM, including the co-clerks, attended this first meeting. Meetings for Worship typically are held with a dozen or so members or attenders each week. Historically, Hillsborough was the site of the Eno River Friends Meeting, which was under the care of Cane Creek Meeting over 100 years ago.

- Multiple forums were held in our Meetinghouse throughout the year that have helped us look deeply within ourselves, as individuals and as a community. These forums have included the following topics: Generosity; Members One of Another (Pendle Hill Pamphlet #371); Exploring our Visible and Hidden Identities; Scaling Climate Change; and Aging in the Manner of Friends.
- Dozens of DFM members and attenders showed their support by participating in the NC Gay Pride Parade that was held in Durham on the 28th day of Ninth Month, 2013.
- After several months of discernment, the DFM Hospitality Committee was laid down in Ninth Month, 2013. Functions were redefined and folded into existing committees or transferred into a new Fellowship Committee, which is responsible for nurturing members and attenders with light snacks and tea, coffee, and water following the rise of Meetings for Worship. The new arrangement seems easier to sustain and the test period was recently extended for another year.
- The relationship between DFM and the State of North Carolina is legally formalized in a set of Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, both of which were established in the late 1950s. Friends have considered updating these documents to be more descriptive and accurate with respect to Quaker faith and process. Draft revisions were brought to two Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business, but unity was not reached.
- In First Month, 2014, DFM and Eno River Unitarian Fellowship co-hosted the popular play "Go Granny D" depicting the activist efforts of Doris Haddock, who trekked over 3000 miles on foot across the US in protest to legislation that limited voting rights. Donations from the play were given to the NC NAACP in support of its Moral Monday efforts.
- This year, DFM held its second annual Light Up Your Winter, a six-week series of open study on a variety of spiritual and nurturing topics. Like last year, it was well attended.
- DFM participated in numerous vigils in witness of those murdered in Durham. Several DFM members were active with visits to families who have lost loved ones to violence, bringing food on a weekly basis or a "basket of light" during the holiday season.

First Day worship continues to be a source for silent and vocal ministry, inspiring our community with Love, Grace, and the Inner Light.

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting

Fayetteville Monthly Meeting is a small, active, and dedicated faith community meeting weekly in the living room of Quaker House. Our unprogrammed worship members and attenders wait upon Divine Guidance to speak, occasionally during worship and frequently afterwards.

As a smaller meeting, we usually have three to six people in attendance; we have childcare available and no children currently enrolled. We are fortunate that our worship meetings of business are as well-attended as our worship meetings for Adult Discussions. We welcomed Lynn Newsom as a transfer member in Fourth Month and appreciate her and Stephen's attendance when they are not scheduled elsewhere. The first month of 2014 marked a change at meeting; Susan Lees agreed to serve as clerk as well as treasurer. She uses the wisdom of other members, especially Ann Ashford and Bob Cooper, to help guide and support her in this inaugural position.

Adult Discussion: We are still reading *How to Believe in God (Whether You Believe in Religion or Not)* by Clark Strand. We are exploring ways to deepen and broaden Meeting's

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spiritual growth, and we are reviewing our past to determine a Friendly way to grow Meeting's attendance. We began a discussion regarding anti-gay laws in Uganda, piece-meal laws in the United States and North Carolina, and how our Meeting will respond. We welcomed Kristin Olson-Kennedy, Clerk of NCYM-C Ministry and Oversight Committee, Baptist Peace Fellowship members, and other travelers throughout the year. We examined and discussed the Yearly Meeting Discipline Revisions and appreciate the amount of time and energy that the Revision Committee has worked on them; we grow in our understanding of the historical words and how we want to express ourselves in the present looking toward the future. We read the Queries and Advices and grow spiritually from the discussions that arise out of these connections to our wider Friends community.

Outreach: corporately and individually, meeting members and attenders are active in prison ministry through conversation, correspondence, visitation, and financially, on state and federal levels. We are active in Piedmont Friends Fellowship, in Representative Body Meetings, as committee members of the Yearly Meeting, in attending workshops and concerts hosted by Quaker House co-directors Lynn and Stephen Newsom, and in several community service groups and political actions. In anticipation of visitors, we updated Meeting's Welcome Handout, using Durham Friends Meeting's Welcome Handout as a template. We appreciated their generosity.

Susan Lees and Lynn Newsom helped coordinate a 25th anniversary of National Coming Out Day (NCOD) (for Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender civil rights) celebration during Tenth Month; Meeting supported them and members attended the celebration. The NCOD group raised enough money to give \$250 to a local agency which works with individuals living with HIV and the AIDS virus. In Fifth Month Darlene Hopkins spent a few weeks in India through the Wycliffe Bible Translators Organization helping individuals learn English.

In Matthew 17:20 Jesus talks about faith as small as a mustard seed, and the power of that faith. Fayetteville Friends Meeting may be few in numbers, yet our actions impact our community; our Light continues to shine.

Friendship Monthly Meeting

Regarding the meeting for worship: It seems there have been more completely silent meetings for worship in recent months, which may be a cyclical thing. Some have indicated they would like to hear more vocal ministry, others are content with the silence. We believe the spiritual quality of the silence remains good and, for the most part, gathered. We continue to meet for one full hour as our regular appointed time but have added a few moments at the end of our hour for the asking for joys or concerns--a suggestion brought forward by the Ministry and Worship committee--that friends may wish to share with the meeting community. After the joys and concerns, we break meeting. Then we individually introduce ourselves and make announcements of interest to the meeting. Any visitors are welcomed and invited to fill out the visitor cards we keep in the fellowship area. These cards allow visitors to indicate if they would like someone to contact them with information about the meeting. Midweek meeting continues on at Friends Homes at Guilford and is a precious opportunity to worship with those faithful attenders who primarily are from the Friends Homes community. Participation from folks in the meeting outside of the Friends Homes has always been desired and welcomed by the group. Anyone is welcome; sometimes students have attended for a time.

- A weekly bulletin--the *George Fox Newsletter*--is now compiled and distributed by email by a new member who had performed this service in her last meeting. It has become a handy, quick, and efficient way of keeping meeting members and other interested parties informed of meeting and local events. This email newsletter is a welcome addition to our monthly printed newsletter which faithfully reports the minutes of the business meeting, schedule of events in the meeting house, and articles contributed by members and attenders.

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- The caring for our young friend's spiritual nurture on First Days continues thanks to the organizational efforts of our Religious Education Committee. We have been blessed this year, as in many past years, to have a Quaker Leadership Scholar Program (QLSP) student from nearby Guilford College to stand in as a primary child care/First Day school facilitator. Members of the meeting sign up to provide secondary support or take on the task completely of First Day School during summer months, spring breaks, or times when the QLSP student is unavailable. We are very grateful to those friends who have dedicated large amounts of their time and energy so that there would be quality First Day activities for our young Friends. In this past year, the young Friends have formed their own business meeting. They have taken on breaking meeting and making announcements on fifth First Days of the month and have come up with fund-raising projects for social concerns discussed in their meetings for business. Most recently they went with older Friends to participate in the newly formed project of the meeting to prepare, serve, and share a meal with families in the local Pathways Center who are trying to get a fresh start after being homeless.
- An ongoing item of importance in recent years has been supporting and remaining participative with our elder members who may not be able to attend meeting for various reasons. This has been a growing concern for a number of us for years. Some have needed particular support as they faced health, housing, and financial matters. The Care and Council and Ministry and Worship committees have organized food, visitation, meetings for worship and sometimes material support as well. We are grateful to be able to meet these needs. How to appropriately share these opportunities is likely to be an ongoing topic. We are aware that our overall spiritual health is related to our communal care of our members from the youngest to the oldest.
- We continue to make plans and work toward building a larger meeting space on our grounds that would allow us to use our current space more for the needs of our First Day program as well as for the community at large. Although we are united in the need for a larger space, there are still some concerns among us as to how we will get the money. We have invited members of other meetings who have experience in building projects to come and speak to us. We are examining our own budget for self-funding possibilities. We have tried to investigate various possibilities of where, what, and how to build. We have recently formed a Meeting House Planning Committee as well as a Meeting House Fund-Raising Committee both of whom would welcome all prayers and donations.
- Our numbers have increased in the last year mostly through an influx of persons who have either transferred their membership to us or have become sojourning members. These Friends have brought ideas, projects, and fresh perspectives that have livened the meeting with creative energy and a strong sense of the work of the Spirit of Christ among us. Our longstanding outreach project of supplying sandwiches monthly for the homeless shelter has been discontinued and replaced with one that brings us into relationship with the homeless population and provides what we hope will be more useful and beneficial service. These new Friends have taken interest in our plan for a new meeting space and have spurred us to take a closer look at the meeting's contributions to a wide variety of organizations with the object of paring the list down to those that can be justified by meeting members who are or are willing to be in relationship with those organizations. We anticipate this will free up a portion of our budget to apply to the building of a meeting room building. One of our new Friends has begun a men's group and another has begun a book discussion group. As mentioned above, we now have a weekly news bulletin started by a new member. It appears that longstanding members have been open to the gifts that our newer members are bringing into the meetings for worship and business.

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We have not been without loss in this year with the passing of three of our members: Rachel Benfey who passed away on Ninth Month 22, 2013; Mary Green who passed away on Tenth Month 20, 2013; and Dorothy Nielsen who passed away on First Month 9, 2014. We remember them fondly for who they were and are grateful for their contributions to the life of the meeting. One new life was introduced into this world and to the meeting in this past year. Margot Josephine Logan Morris was born on Fourth Month 14, 2014 to Anne and Hannah Logan Morris.

It is a blessing to write that our overall spiritual health appears good and that we are prospering. Like many other meetings in these times we are seeking ways to best and most appropriately use our resources. Much is being accomplished among us, and with Divine assistance in our contemplations and the creative energies of our membership to guide our practical application, we hope to accomplish even more.

Greenville Monthly Meeting

Each time this Clerk has had to compose the state of society report she has struggled to gather a sense our faith community. This is her last report. Mary Miller has faithfully served as clerk and treasurer for Greenville Friends Meeting most of the past twenty years. Our newest members, Bruce Arnold, and Guy Burgess have the energy and willingness to take on the responsibilities of clerk and treasurer for the coming year. We thank Mary Miller for her service, which she is happy to lay down at this time.

Our meeting has had other milestones. We recorded Bruce Arnold as a Minister. His vocal ministry is rich and articulate. As a meeting we are learning what our responsibilities are in supporting his ministry.

We now have 9 members. It may not seem like very many, but for Greenville it is something to be excited about. There are occasions when we have had 10 or 11 at meeting for worship.

The meeting's dog, Summer, still attends as well. She welcomes each person to meeting, and visits with the residents of the retirement community afterward.

We gather after meeting for worship on the Second Sunday of each month with coffee and bagels and discuss topics of interest to the meeting. Sometimes it is structured, and sometimes we just enjoy one another's company. We are taking the revisions to the Faith and Practice seriously and are enjoying the challenge of understanding them.

Our newest member remarked on "the love, acceptance and gentle friendship" he experienced in his request for membership. The Clerk has also heard from a former member who missed the worship experience and spiritual nurturing she received from us.

We welcomed Kristin Olsen-Kennedy and were enriched by her visit.

We have visited Core Sound Friends, but not as frequently as we would like. We also struggle with finding the time and energy to be more of a presence in our community.

Rich Square Monthly Meeting

The membership of Rich Square Monthly Meeting continues at 46 adult members with no children in membership. On Sixth Month 11, 2014 our dearly loved elder, Elizabeth ("Lib") Gilliam Parker, completed her labors here on earth. We celebrated her life at a memorial meeting in Cedar Grove meeting house on Sixth Month 17th with the room filled with her family, Friends, neighbors, and friends of the family. On Twelfth Month 15, 2013 Robert M. Parker was welcomed into membership in Rich Square Monthly Meeting. The Meeting has also been blessed with the attendance of a young family with a small daughter who has learned to walk during this past year. It has been so good to hear the sounds of a young child again in the meeting room, and see her head bobbing up and down as she walks among the benches, often breaking out in a smile that reminds us of what it really means to be open to the Spirit.

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With only four members now residing in the Woodland area, the Meeting continues to benefit from the active involvement of members who live some distance from the Meeting. Many of these members were part of the meeting as children and young people, or family members of those who have grown up in the Meeting. Our newest member travels approximately three hours one way to get to Meeting. He also has taken responsibility for care of the meeting house lawn, bringing equipment and sometimes family members with him to keep the grounds maintained. Aside from local members the next closest members regularly drive 30 minutes to an hour for meetings. Through the use of e-mail almost all members receive our monthly meeting minutes. It appears this will be the shape of our Meeting for at least the near future.

The involvement of distant members has continued with the annual Homecoming in Tenth Month. Not only do distant members come for this event, but several such members were instrumental in the planning and implementation of the plans for the event. There was a well-attended homecoming dinner in the lunchroom where members, former members, friends and neighbors gathered for food and conversation. The library and First Day school room had pictures and displays, including a time line display of our 250 year history. The beautiful day allowed visiting with one another on the grounds of the meeting house as those present continued to share their experiences at Cedar Grove.

The non-profit corporation, Cedar Grove Friends Meeting, Inc., is now working to support the Meeting, care for the property and other assets of the Meeting, and plan for the future of the meeting house and property. The first meeting of the Directors of the Corporation was during the Homecoming weekend in Tenth Month. The Corporation, with the concurrence of Rich Square Monthly Meeting, has succeeded the Meeting's Trustees in caring for the investments of the Meeting. The Corporation is also accepting responsibility for the long-term care of the Meeting property, and is involved, through its Building and Grounds Committee, in needed maintenance. The Corporation is currently composed of nine Directors who are all present or past members of Rich Square Monthly Meeting.

Although it sometimes seems we have been mostly about maintenance this past year, we were active in other ways as a meeting. Among our maintenance activities were major heating repairs and the replacement of our entire water supply system due to old rusty galvanized pipes. A work day in Eighth Month proved to be important not only for the painting, lawn work, pressure washing that was done but also for the opportunity for us all to work together. Having three delightful young children working with us was such a treat for our relatively older group. We have continued in local youth activities through our own Community Children's Garden on the meeting house property, support of the 4-H camping program through scholarship help, and support of a local program named "So Fresh, So Green," which is designed to reach the children in our area with an innovative effort to involve them in environmental concerns and empower them to take responsibility for their lives. We continue to participate in local ecumenical events, and at times take the leadership for these events to take place. Our members volunteer in their local communities with youth activities, Meals on Wheels, and other activities. Some members also work with the yearly meeting and are active in the larger world of Friends and Friends' organizations.

Our Meeting remains in a period of transition from a well-established and settled meeting to a meeting of widely scattered Friends seeking somehow to continue as Rich Square Monthly Meeting. As to the future of our Meeting we are hopeful although at times we are not always optimistic. We still see purposes for our being here and opportunities for us to act as a meeting community. Our Meeting's past has for many of us such precious memories that we cannot give this Meeting up. Our present times of worship, fellowship, and work are bringing us into a common life together where we celebrate the Spirit among us. We trust there will be a future for our Meeting if we open ourselves to the Spirit, which is bringing us together.

Virginia Beach Monthly Meeting

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This last year at VBFM has been active in many areas, with the school, community and addressing many things needing attention to our lovely, but aging meetinghouse. We have workdays with job priorities noted. The Buildings & Grounds committee has worked thru many difficult issues: leaks, uneven concrete walks, peeling paint, old and broken windows. This, along with having to deal with the City's ever changing zoning issues regarding a major road-widening project in our front yard. For sure this committee and Joint Property Committee (with the School) have toiled thru many lists and processes. Throughout, they are still trying to save our trees! Even with these areas needing our time, members and attenders have worked in deepening our commitment to each other and enriching our spiritual home.

In an effort to educate VBFM attenders and members about non-doctrinal Quaker "guidelines," Ministers, Elders & Overseers have finished the revision of the brochure welcoming new members to worship and helping them understand the importance of our sacred space. Many hours of effort to use Quaker process resulted in a final product that has taken over a year! M.E.O. also had Brown Bag events, with topics like "Nurture the Spiritual Life" along with "Waiting on Holy Ground." Many attended and a thoughtful and lively discussion ensued.

Our Discovery Dinners have been a great success as well. These are groups of six to eight, consisting of seasoned members and new attenders who share a meal and "discover" one another.

We also had a visit from Kristin Olson-Kennedy from Yearly Meeting twice this year to M.E.O. There was wonderful open conversation about the common issues many of our meetings struggle to improve on.

We continue to have our mid-week intercessory prayer Meeting, supported by only a few steadfast members. They provide a small and open opportunity for anyone interested.

Our adult First day School continues to meet each 3rd First day. They have covered numerous topics. This group offers a great way for newcomers to learn more in an open forum group.

Young Friends Committee has again evaluated their program, always trying to meet the changing groups of children. A support group gathered with the Committee to help strategize a way to engage more support from Friends School families, along with Meeting members and attenders. Currently, formal Young Friends Programs are on the first and third First Day of each month.

VBFM hosted a gathering of the Wider Quaker Fellowship in Second Month. Then just two months later, we provided hospitality for a retreat of the Catholic Worker. We may be small in number, but we are an example that individual people can make a difference.

Peace & Social Justice Committee is energized under new leadership, and is conducting a survey of the membership for planning purposes. We are hoping to engage the meeting in issues they feel strongly about.

Communication is something we continue to stress in all our activities. We have upgraded our online presence with a more current and informative website. When something occurs mid-week, we are able to send a message and thru a vigilant working member the information is quickly disseminated.

We now receive weekly updates at the rise of meeting about the school activities, successes and needs. School spirit is high, enrollment is up, and meeting is pleased with the progress of the School. A Board of visitors is being set up. It has been mentioned that this past year the school and meeting has a bond that remains strong.

We have several of our older members who have made their transition, and others struggling with health issues, which helped us grow and cooperate as a community. It has reminded us of a past project that was set aside and now resurrected; a memorial garden in combination with the meeting and the school.

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West Grove Monthly Meeting

Acknowledging God's presence among us brings a quiet joy in gathering for Meeting for Worship. Bible study before meeting has become a time for uniting community before the Word and setting a pattern for the week ahead. We appreciate hearing the living word rising through those gathered in worship. In silence or with spoken ministry there is a peace beyond understanding when we gather as a meeting.

Visitors have enriched our gatherings. We give thanks.

Wilmington Monthly Meeting

Wilmington Friends Meeting has enjoyed a year of reflection and refocus as we consider how best to maintain our presence in the community and express our united faith.

In Sixth Month we lost our long time tenant, Voces Latinas, an organization that worked to address the needs of Wilmington's struggling Latino population, but who, due to organizational shifts and the loss of funding, were forced to close their doors. We are sorry to see them go and wish them well in their attempts to find new funding where their important mission can be fulfilled. Their departure from our building has left us with the responsibility and compelling task of finding another organization compatible with Friends' testimonies with which to share our space.

While we still provide a weekly space for our local Buddhist friends to meet, we are committed to finding organizations to share our greatest material asset – our building. We have explored the needs of Interfaith Refugee Ministries, Aging in Place, and the Icarus Project – all local organizations seeking to establish home bases in Wilmington. While not being able to totally meet their needs, we have been able to provide space for their organizational meetings and are open to and willing to provide space for ongoing needs as they arise.

Our ultimate goal has been inspired by the peace discussions we have been challenged and excited to explore in the past year. Led by Sandra Hopper, we have held monthly and bimonthly discussions delving into the idea of peace as it impacts us on an individual, community and global level. We explored the inspiring lives of peacemakers and peacekeepers from John Woolman to Nelson Mandela, Gandhi and Joan Baez. From these discussions, the Spirit has moved us to expand the ways that we serve and use our resources. We have felt moved to invest time in identifying our spiritual and tangible resources for wider use. On Second Month 1, 2014 we held a retreat where we prepared a lengthy list of resources that were matched to programs for inner deepening and strengthening of the meeting, improved communications with visitors, web presence, peacemaking and peacekeeping training and activism in the community and youth support.

Out of this retreat, materialized the idea to conduct a series of Anti Violence Project (AVP) workshops, led by our dear Friend, Rubye Braye, who has conducted these workshops all over the world, to train us to be a fully certified cadre of volunteers who will be willing to go out into our community to spread the word and works of peace and reconciliation. We are hopeful that in whatever ways possible, we can contribute to the balance of peace testimony as it is recognized among us all.

In Second Month we respectfully accepted the resignation of Asa Janney from our membership and in the next month happily accepted the request for membership from Tricia Odum. We wish them both clarity and direction in their spiritual journeys. In First Month we transferred membership from WFM to Nashville Friends Meeting for Mitch Abrams and Debra Palmer. Sadly, in eleventh month we mourned the loss of Bill Ratliff whose life and testimony was an inspiration to not just us but to his family and many friends. Our attendance is maintained at a steady ten to fifteen members and attenders weekly, with promising but sporadic visits from folks seeking a new spiritual home. Due to an anonymous donor and extra gifts from Friends and

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attenders we were able to make two additional payments to our principal mortgage balance this year thereby reducing our outstanding debt.

In concrete ways, Friends among us continue to volunteer in a number of community, regional and national organizations, including, among others, our local homeless shelter, Good Shepherd Center, Moral Mondays, Friends School of Wilmington, Communities in Schools and The Topsail Turtle Hospital. In addition to these efforts, Bob Hopper and Connie Keller worked hard to create and execute the installation of The Betsy Johnson Memorial Garden along with new signage in front of our Meeting House.

In order to increase the impact of our shared beliefs we were excited to join the North Carolina Council of Churches in an effort to be more connected to other faith-based groups in our region. Writing about our faith and how it is realized in our daily lives, five Friends participated in the local Faith and Values blog published in our local newspaper. It was quite rewarding to see how our faith sharing affected others in our community. Unfortunately, soon after we committed to contributing to this forum, funding problems eliminated this valuable platform. We are hopeful, though, that at the Faith and Values column will be resurrected in some form from which our voices can continue to be heard.

We continue to seek the living Spirit that unites us all in all our diversity and uncertainty and desire to do more.

It has become a common feeling, I believe, as we have watched our heroes falling over the years, that our own small stone of activism, which might not seem to measure up to the rugged boulders of heroism we have so admired, is a paltry offering toward the building of an edifice of hope. Many who believe this choose to withhold their offering out of shame. This is the tragedy of the world. For we can do nothing substantial toward changing our course on the planet, a destructive one, without rousing ourselves, individual by individual, and bringing our small, imperfect stones to the pile.

Alice Walker

19. Additional Visitors:

Additional visitors were welcomed and introduced themselves:

Geeta and Robert McGahey, Celo Monthly Meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association

Sammy Letoole, Samburu Friends Mission, Kenya

Toni Etherington, AFSC NC Office, Greensboro

Peter Buck, Asheville Monthly Meeting, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association

20. Endorsement of Travel Minute

An endorsement by Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) of the Travel Minute presented by Andrew Wright at their yearly meeting sessions last year was read.

21. Proposal from Durham Youth Ministries Committee

Andrew Wright presented a proposal requesting a committee to coordinate youth activities of NCYM(C) and Piedmont Friends Fellowship. Such a committee would invite care from a broader representation of meetings beyond Durham Meeting's current work with youth and cultivate community amongst youth in our meetings with gatherings in addition to programming during yearly meeting sessions. Friends expressed support for encouraging an active youth program beyond current yearly meeting activities and in partnership with Piedmont Friends Fellowship. Andrew Wright agreed to work with Nominating Committee to come up with

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an ad hoc committee to work for a year as the proposed discernment committee. Gratitude was expressed for the work done thus far and continuing efforts to nurture our youth.

22. Revision of Discipline (part one)

The Discipline Revision Committee provided an update on their work. A revised draft of the Organization and Procedures portion of the discipline has been distributed to the monthly meetings. Three elements include recommendations for significant change: (1) process for discontinuing meetings, (2) clarification of representatives to annual sessions, and (3) changing the name of "Representative Body" to "Interim Body" with more explicit clarification regarding appointments, relationship to the monthly meetings, and Interim Body responsibilities. In addition there are some small changes for clarification purposes.

The inclusion of a quorum for the Interim Body raised a number of questions relating the role of Interim Body members and the monthly meetings, the potential challenge of determining a quorum, and the purpose and implications of this requirement. Additional reflection is needed regarding this portion of the document. With removal of the sentences specific to the quorum, Friends were supportive of the proposed procedural revisions.

23. Welcome by Guilford President Jane Fernandes

Guilford's incoming President Jane Fernandes expressed gratitude for the Yearly Meeting's presence at Guilford College this year. She introduced herself and shared her commitment to Guilford's mission and values. She also noted her personal appreciation for importance of silence in Quaker practice and for the opportunity to learn more as she joins the Guilford College community and meets with North Carolina Friends.

24. Finance Committee Request

It was approved that the treasurer fulfill a travel reimbursement request for \$1000 by expending the remaining \$700 budgeted for that purpose and transferring \$300 from the restricted travel fund to cover the full amount.

25. Southern State Prison Ministry Report

Lloyd Lee Wilson shared his experience visiting the Southern State Worship Group in New Jersey and the approval process involved in gaining permission to enter the prison for that purpose. He encouraged others to consider if they might be led to visit prisons.

26. Nominating Committee Report (part two)

Anne Olsen presented the Nominating Committee Report. The report included a description for the newly established Travel Support Committee. The list of representatives on Representative Body has been updated. Additional members are needed for the Hospitality Committee and representatives are still needed for the American Friends Service Committee and Friends World Committee for Consultation. With minor corrections, the Nominating Report was approved. (See full report on page 136.)

27. Request for Travel Reimbursement Procedural Change

Requests for reimbursements are made to the yearly meeting treasurer. Past procedure required the treasurer having larger reimbursements approved by the yearly meeting. It was approved for reimbursements over \$300, up to the limit of the total travel budget, to go through the Travel Support Committee rather than the full yearly meeting for that approval.

28. Treasurer's Report

Lloyd Lee Wilson presented the Treasurer's Report.

Income and Expense Report

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Income

Total regular income for the 2013-2014 fiscal year was very slightly above budget. The yearly meeting received \$57.14 in unbudgeted contributions from individuals, and Greenville Monthly Meeting contributed \$5.00 more than its budgeted amount.

The yearly meeting also received special donations of \$1,425.00 earmarked for the Youth Scholarship Fund, which underwrites the cost of attending yearly meeting sessions for youths under the age of 18.

\$600.00 was withdrawn from the Special Projects Fund to pay the donation to the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund, as planned.

Expense

All budgeted donations to organizations for this year have been made, including the special donation to the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund. Administrative expenses were slightly below budget due primarily to efficiencies in publishing the minutes. There have been no requests for financial support in the form of internships or scholarships. Requests for reimbursement for travel on behalf of the yearly meeting amounted to about \$2,379. Payment of the amount in excess of the budgeted \$2,000 out of the restricted travel fund was approved by the yearly meeting.

Net Income(Loss)

The yearly meeting experienced a net loss for the year, counting all sources and uses, of just over \$2,082. The biggest contributor to this amount was the deficit from the 2013 yearly meeting sessions, as discussed at Representative Body.

INCOME & EXPENSE (7/1/2013 through 6/30/2014)

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Individual Contributions	45.14
Monthly Meeting Contributions	13,908.00
Other Revenue	
Interest Earned	4.09
Miscellaneous Revenue	<u>12.00</u>
Total Other Revenue	16.09
YMTg Sessions Income	
Book Store Revenue	466.13
YMTg Registration Fees	3,628.60
YMTg Room & Board Income	9,959.20
YMTg Scholarship Contributions	<u>1,486.90</u>
Total YMTg Sessions Income	<u>15,540.83</u>
Total Income	<u>29,510.06</u>

Gross Profit 29,510.06

Expense

Donations and Grants	
Donations to Organizations	<u>10,100.00</u>
Total Donations and Grants	10,100.00
Operations	
Bank Charges	12.00
Postage, PO Box	191.02
Website Expenses	<u>256.99</u>
Total Operations	460.01

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Printing and Copying	
Publication of Directory	187.26
Publication of Minute Book	<u>956.96</u>
Total Printing and Copying	1,144.22
Travel and Meetings	
Travel - General	<u>2,379.30</u>
Total Travel and Meetings	2,379.30
Yearly Meeting Sessions Expense	
Yearly Meeting Program Expense	
Book Store Expenses	478.09
Insurance - Liability	216.00
Youth Program Expense	581.84
YM Program Exp -Other	<u>561.08</u>
Total Yearly Meeting Program Exp.	1,837.01
Yearly Meeting Room & Board	14,426.70
Yearly Meeting Site Expense	725.00
Yearly Meeting Site Use Fee	<u>520.00</u>
Total Yearly Meeting Sessions Expense	<u>17,508.71</u>
Total Expense	<u>31,592.24</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-2,082.18</u>
Net Income	<u>-2,082.18</u>

Balance Sheet

Assets

Checking

The checking account balance at year-end was \$49,379.83. This amount includes over \$10,000 collected for the 2014 yearly meeting sessions, \$17,118.00 held in various restricted funds for particular uses, \$2,167.00 held on behalf of monthly meetings who have paid contributions to the yearly meeting in advance, and about \$20,000 in unrestricted funds.

Current Liabilities

The yearly meeting has collected about \$10,000 from individuals for registration, room and board, and gifts for the 2014 annual sessions. This is a liability because if these individuals ended up not coming to sessions or we did not hold annual sessions for some reason, we would have to pay this money back.

Two monthly meetings have paid all or part of their annual contribution to the yearly meeting in advance. This is a liability because if they suddenly left the yearly meeting or reduced their contribution amounts, we would have to pay this money back.

Changes in Equity

Restricted Funds Overall the restricted funds of the yearly meeting decreased over the year to \$17,118.00. More information on each fund is given below.

The Discipline Fund received \$41.00 in donations this year. The balance is now \$2,281.00. The Discipline Fund is earmarked for paying the expense of reprinting the yearly meeting Discipline.

The FWCC Jamaica Fund has had no activity; the balance is unchanged at \$571.20. This money is held in trust for Jamaican Friends.

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The General Travel Fund year-end balance is \$3,684.10. This fund assists Friends who have travel expenses associated with representing NCYM-C on committees and organizations outside the yearly meeting.

The Journal Publication Fund balance is unchanged at \$2,300.20.

The Special Projects Fund has been charged \$600.00 for the contribution to the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund approved at the 2013 yearly meeting sessions. It has a year-end balance of \$5,563.74. The Special Projects Fund is disbursed at the discretion of the yearly meeting in session.

The Yearly Meeting Sessions Reserve decreased by over \$2,300 this year due to the yearly meeting sessions deficit. Its balance is now \$1,293.52. This reserve fund is the cumulative net surplus of holding yearly meeting sessions over the years, and is used to cover any deficit incurred by the yearly meeting sessions.

The Yearly Meeting Scholarship Fund was completely depleted by the 2013 annual sessions, but has been replenished by the special gifts mentioned earlier and has a year-end balance of provided \$255.00 more in assistance than it received in gifts for the 2012 yearly meeting sessions, \$1,425.00. This fund provides financial assistance to pay for children attending yearly meeting sessions, and to other Friends needing help to afford coming to yearly meeting sessions.

Unrestricted Net Assets of the yearly meeting, after adjusting for net income, grew by about \$3,000.

BALANCE SHEET (as of 6/30/2014)

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Wells Fargo Checking 49,379.83

Total Checking/Savings 49,379.83

Total Current Assets 49,379.83

Other Assets

Other Assets

Pre-paid Website Expense 16.99

Total Other Assets 16.99

Total Other Assets 16.99

TOTAL ASSETS **49,396.82**

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

Pre-paid Sessions Assist. Gifts 1,160.08

Pre-paid Sessions Registrations 2,570.00

Pre-Paid Sessions Rm & Bd 6,220.75

Prepaid MMTg Contributions 2,167.00

Total Other Current Liabilities 12,117.83

Total Current Liabilities 12,117.83

Total Liabilities 12,117.83

Equity

North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) - 2014

Temp. Restricted Net Assets	
Discipline Fund	2,281.00
FWCC Jamaica Fund	571.20
General Travel Fund	3,684.10
Journal Publication Fund	2,300.20
Special Projects Fund	5,563.74
YMTg Sessions Reserve	1,293.52
YMTg Sessions Scholarship Fund	<u>1,425.00</u>
Total Temp. Restricted Net Assets	17,118.76
Unrestricted Net Assets	22,242.41
Net Income	<u>-2,082.18</u>
Total Equity	<u>37,278.99</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	49,396.82

The treasurer presented the proposed budget for financial year 2015 on behalf of the Finance Committee.

	2014 Budget	2014 Actual	2015 Budget
Income	14,503.00	14,569.23	11,875.00
<i>Monthly Meeting</i>			
<i>Contributions</i>	<i>13,903.00</i>	<i>13,908.00</i>	<i>11,275.00</i>
Davidson	200.00	200.00	400.00
Durham	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00
Fayetteville	500.00	500.00	500.00
Friendship	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00
Greenville	353.00	358.00	525.00
Rich Square	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Virginia			
Beach	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
West Grove	750.00	750.00	750.00
Wilmington	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
 <i>Other Income</i>	 <i>600.00</i>	 <i>661.23</i>	 <i>600.00</i>
Individual			
Contributions			
– unrestricted	0.00	45.14	0.00
Individual			
Contributions			
– Directory	0.00	0.00	0.00
Individual			
Contributions			
– Journal	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nonmember			
Contributions	0.00	0.00	0.00
Misc.			
Revenue	0.00	12.00	0.00

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Prior Year Contributions	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest Income	0.00	4.09	0.00
Transfer from Journal Restricted Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfer from Unrestricted General Reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfer from Calvert Restricted Fund	600.00	600.00	600.00
Expenses	15,447.00	14,083.53	13,254.00
<hr/>			
<i>Administrative Expenses</i>	<i>1,847.00</i>	<i>1,604.23</i>	<i>1,904.00</i>
<hr/>			
Operating Expenses	300.00	203.02	300.00
Website Costs	257.00	256.99	257.00
Publication of YMtg Directory	190.00	187.26	247.00
Publication of Minutes	1,100.00	956.96	1,100.00
Publication of Memorials	0.00	0.00	0.00
Publication of <i>Journal</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Donations to Organizations</i>	<i>10,100.00</i>	<i>10,100.00</i>	<i>5,350.00</i>
<hr/>			
AFSC	700.00	700.00	250.00
Indian Affairs	300.00	300.00	250.00
FCNL	700.00	700.00	250.00
Quaker Earthcare Witness	300.00	300.00	250.00
Quaker House of Fayetteville	1,500.00	1,500.00	750.00
RSWR	300.00	300.00	250.00
Friends Center at Guilford	250.00	250.00	250.00
Friends Historical Collection at Guilford	400.00	400.00	250.00
FWCC	700.00	700.00	250.00

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NC Friends			
Historical Soc.	250.00	250.00	250.00
Pendle Hill	300.00	300.00	250.00
FAHE	200.00	200.00	0.00
FCOE	200.00	200.00	0.00
Guilford			
College	600.00	600.00	250.00
Carolina			
Friends School	850.00	850.00	250.00
New Garden			
Friends School	850.00	850.00	250.00
Wilmington			
Friends School	0.00	0.00	250.00
Virginia Beach			
Friends School	850.00	850.00	250.00
School of the			
Spirit	250.00	250.00	250.00
Bolivian Quaker			
Education Fund	600.00	600.00	600.00
<i>Other Expenses</i>	<i>3,500.00</i>	<i>2,379.30</i>	<i>6,000.00</i>
Internships/ Scholarships	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
Travel (General)	2,000.00	2,379.30	2,500.00
FWCC Travel Fund	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
Budget Summary			
Total Sources of Funds	14,503.00	14,569.23	11,875.00
Total Uses of Funds	15,447.00	14,083.53	13,254.00
Net Sources and Uses of Funds	-\$944.00	\$485.70	-\$1,379.00

The Finance Committee presented a conservative budget, which required significant reductions in donations to organizations. Due to Friendship Monthly Meeting's current discernment process regarding their own meeting budget and a desire not to place expectations on that process, the budget does not include any income from Friendship. The budget reinstated funds to provide support for FWCC representatives' international travel. Appreciation was expressed to the Finance Committee for their discernment and difficult decisions. The budget was approved.

29. Revision of Discipline (part two)

The Discipline Revision Committee invited questions and feedback on the proposed submission draft. Discussion centered on use of language and the challenge of expressing our unique reality with words that others might use for different purposes. Friends agreed to identify these passages and have the Discipline Revision Committee address items in continuing dialogue with monthly meetings. The proposed working draft was approved with this understanding.

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30. American Friends Services Committee Report

American Friends Services Committee staff member Toni Etheridge provided an introduction and overview of the American Friends Services Committee and an update on recent programming led by the AFSC Area Office of the Carolinas in Greensboro.

The American Friends Service Committee is privileged to have an office just blocks from two Greensboro Friends Meetings and from Guilford's campus, and this proximity encourages a lot of interaction and from Guilford, a lot of interns.

Structure: Two years ago, AFSC engaged in significant restructuring, resulting in four regions within the U.S. We are located in the South region, along with offices in Baltimore, West Virginia, DC, New Orleans, Miami, and regional headquarters in Atlanta. Nikki Vangsnes of Durham Meeting serves on our regional Executive Committee. Ann Lennon had served as interim Regional Director for the South while interviews were being conducted in search for a regional director. We are happy to report that a new regional director has been selected, Kamau Franklin, and began in April 2014. When Kamau is not travelling on business he can be found at the AFSC Atlanta, Georgia office. His resume profile shares that he's been a civil rights attorney, a community organizer, and a campaign director.

Ann has been promoted to Associate Regional Director for the South. Greensboro will remain her base. In our local office, we have two full time staff, one part time staff, two paid interns for temporary projects and currently two unpaid interns. We have a strong volunteer and intern program. Despite limited staffing, we operate two vibrant and robust programs.

Peace & Economic Justice, led by Toni Etheridge: Our Peace & Economic Justice program is primarily implemented through working with groups of young people on a weekly or monthly basis to discuss social justice themes and develop leadership skills. Toni is currently working with youth at the Elimu Empowerment Services, a group serving primarily African refugee youth; the Newcomer's School, a school for immigrant children; Dudley High School; and she is starting a new relationship with a group of Montagnard Dega youth. Toni has also organized visits to Congressional offices to promote issues of global peace, including a recent visit in collaboration with FCNL to urge the repeal of the Authorization of Use of Military Force (AUMF). In addition, our office continues to be very involved with the Moral Monday movement and Freedom Summer. AFSC brought two Guilford College rising seniors to Washington, D.C. to participate in an AFSC Human Rights Summit. They lobbied issues about the Immigrant Detention Bed Mandate and rising economic inequalities in the South. Finally, AFSC seeks to promote understanding and connections with the Muslim community by inviting Quakers to join open houses at local mosques and other ways.

Immigrant Rights, led by Lori Fernald Khamala: We continue to utilize digital storytelling as a medium to facilitate immigrants and young people to tell their own stories in their own words using 21st century technology. All of our short videos can be found at www.youtube.com/afscnc. The week of July 7 – 11, 2014, we held our first digital storytelling camp in collaboration with the Latino Family Center of High Point. We facilitate groups of mostly non-immigrants who are working for a more inclusive community. In Charlotte, this is an Immigrant Solidarity Committee held at Charlotte Friends Meeting with many Friends in attendance. In Greensboro, we are a key member of the Immigrant Rights Working Group. In Durham, we are seeking ways to revive our efforts there. We offer Know Your Rights Workshops to undocumented immigrants about what to do in case of interaction with law enforcement and train folks to be able to take this back to their own communities. We have led the Welcoming Greensboro Initiative, conducted 16 discussions with diverse immigrant communities in the city, and achieved unanimous passage for a Welcoming Resolution within the Greensboro City Council. Our hope is that the city will implement concrete recommendations suggested by immigrant community members. We are also

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very involved in trying to create humane immigration policy, at the local level (stopping deportation programs that rely on local law enforcement), state level (advocating for in-state tuition for undocumented students and drivers' licenses for undocumented residents), and national level (federal humane immigration reform).

31. Ministry and Oversight Report

Each year the yearly meeting receives requests from individuals wishing to join the yearly meeting directly as individuals. Ministry and Oversight was asked to consider and appointed a committee to explore the issue. Ministry and Oversight approved forwarding the committee's report to the Yearly Meeting for fuller consideration.

On the Relation of our Yearly Meeting to Those Seeking Affiliation with our Yearly Meeting
(Report of Ad Hoc Committee appointed by Yearly Meeting of Ministry and Oversight), Seventh
Month 9, 2014

We intend for our monthly meetings and yearly meeting to have open and loving relationships with all with whom we are involved. Our spiritual heritage as Friends calls us to respond to others so as "to speak to that of God" in them. Our purposes as a Friends' community include nurturing life in the Spirit among all with whom we come in contact, and fostering "the unity of the Spirit" as the basis for our own meetings.

1. MEMBERSHIP (See attached Appendix, item 3, from our Book of Discipline, the section on membership): We seem clear concerning the basis of membership in our monthly meetings and yearly meeting. Individual membership is in monthly meetings which are members of the yearly meeting. The spiritual life of the member is centered in the member's monthly meeting community. It is there the member lives out the commitments made in becoming a member. This commitment is described in our Book of Discipline as the commitment of members to "listen for and give expression in their lives to the promptings of the Inner Spirit in all areas of personal discipline and service to others," and "a readiness to wait upon the Lord and to seek Divine Guidance in those areas where they may not yet be convinced that the Quaker way of life is right." Membership is not merely an individual affiliation with a group but an intention to live and grow into a way of life with the help of those who are also members and share this intention and this way of life. The Discipline also cautions members against the "dilution of the strength of the Quaker message." While that phrase may have several interpretations, it might also remind us of the significance of membership and of our commitment to *mutual* responsibilities involving ourselves and the meetings to which we belong. Despite the importance of our principles and practices, membership ultimately is not grounded in those principles and practices but in our active life together in the Spirit.

Our yearly meeting structure and processes reflect this understanding of membership. As indicated above, in questions of membership, the monthly meeting is primary and the yearly meeting is secondary. Members of monthly meetings are members of the yearly meeting by virtue of their monthly meeting membership. Application for membership in each individual case is for the discernment of the monthly meeting, as are all matters related to membership of the particular member. Our Fourth Month, 2011 Representative Body meeting recorded the following minute: "The sense was reaffirmed that individual membership is for the discernment of monthly meetings not the yearly meeting." The yearly meeting assists the monthly meetings in addressing questions of membership through clarifying faith and practice among the monthly meetings with our Book of Discipline, sharing answers to Queries, and giving specific advice when asked by a monthly meeting. Thus our structure is not hierarchical. Our monthly meetings form the yearly meeting as a nexus for wider communication and activity among its members, support for its members, and for a wider expression of our unity of and in the Spirit.

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2. OTHER EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS WITH YEARLY MEETING: Relationships between our yearly meeting and those not members of our monthly meetings are less well described in our Book of Discipline and in our usual practices as a yearly meeting.

When yearly meeting is in session, it has been our practice to welcome all non-members (attenders and visitors) and invite them to participate in almost all aspects of our yearly meeting sessions including our meetings for business. We have recognized several Friends who have visited yearly meeting sessions regularly for a number of years and seemed to have a special relationship with us as “Friends of the Yearly Meeting.” These Friends remain as members of their own monthly and yearly meetings while continuing as visitors to our yearly meeting sessions.

As a consequence of others becoming aware of our yearly meeting, we have had inquiries concerning our faith and practice, and in some situations requesting a relationship with us. Through publications, online communication, and personal contact we have offered information and encouraged these inquiries about our yearly meeting and, implicitly at least, invited some kind of further relationship. When asked about membership we have informed inquirers that membership is in our monthly meetings. We have been open to working with others related to potential new worship groups or monthly meetings affiliating with our yearly meeting. We invite inquirers when possible to visit our monthly meetings and our yearly meeting sessions. (See attached Appendix, item 2, section on affiliation on our NCYM(C) website)

3. POSSIBLE RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR AFFILIATION:

What Is Being Requested?

While we currently respond to individual requests for affiliation with our yearly meeting by informing inquirers of our membership procedures and inviting visitation during our yearly meeting sessions, it appears we may not be responding to the spiritual needs of some of those seeking affiliation with us. Especially for those at some distance from our monthly meetings, membership and visitation are not viable means of affiliation. We are receiving a few requests from individuals who are expressing a deep sense of spiritual loneliness in their lives and of some hope that in our faith and practice they may have an answer to that loneliness. Some inquirers also appear to be requesting affiliation so as to strengthen the cause of Conservative Friends by offering to join in that effort. Some requests simply express the wish to be with Friends of “like mind.”

Aside from these few inquiries, we (the committee) are still pondering the questions: “What is it about Conservative Friends that others might be seeking by requesting membership?” and “What opportunities might the yearly meeting realize in answering these inquiries?” Some of the inquirers seem to be asking for spiritual help or seeking a validating alliance. Such expressions require our careful consideration of what, if anything, we may be able to offer them as individuals to be truly helpful. Attempts at helping in such situations have serious potential for unintentional harms both to those being helped and the helper. In making decisions about opportunities for involvement with inquirers it is important for the yearly meeting to take care not only to discern the inquirer’s need, but also whether or not we as a yearly meeting are able to be actually helpful in the particular situation.

Possible Responses

Our yearly meeting might consider some changes in our understanding of membership to provide some form of membership for such inquirers, but it is difficult to see how any alternative manner of membership in the yearly meeting itself could provide the discernment, nurture and accountability of a local monthly meeting where direct relationships are possible, if not always realized.

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Two distinct alternatives for relationships with distant Friends or inquirers might be within our capacity as a yearly meeting as a way for the inquirer to be affiliated for the purpose of spiritual support with our yearly meeting:

1. An idea which might be developed would be identifying inquirers wishing to belong to a “Wider North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) Fellowship” so as to have regular communication as a group with the yearly meeting.

2. Another idea would be developing the capacity to respond to the expressed spiritual needs of individual inquirers by offering correspondence with a yearly meeting member as a “spiritual Friend,” if so requested by the inquirer.

The first alternative would offer a program inquirers could participate in, while the second appears more individual and personal. Both alternatives would rely on the yearly meeting accepting as a real concern this spiritual outreach. A sufficient number of individual members with appropriate skills would need to accept the tasks involved and devote the time and energy required for the actions to be relationally significant. The development of either idea would need careful consideration by the yearly meeting as to the actual possibilities and necessary limits of such affiliations or associations. We (the committee) cannot recommend undertaking either of these alternatives without a clearer discernment by the yearly meeting of its concern to be more involved in responding to such inquirers with the required commitments of time, skills, and efforts.

Appendix

Yearly Meeting documents related to the question under consideration:

1. The minute from the Fourth Month 28, 2013 Representative Body meeting which initiated the question:

A report from an email correspondence between Charles Ansell, Clerk of West Grove Monthly Meeting and Paul Kyszel-Steeple, an elder in Berlin Monthly Meeting of Germany Yearly Meeting, expressed a need thirsting for fellowship with conservative Quakers.

In response to a concern brought by West Grove Monthly Meeting, we are open to considering additional options for relationship with NCYM-C besides individual membership through a monthly meeting or group affiliation through the Yearly Meeting. This body asks that Yearly Meeting of Ministry and Oversight consider how we may respond to inquiries from distant Friends and to bring back to Yearly Meeting some guidance on this issue.

2. Section on affiliation on our NCYM(C) website:

Inquiries about Membership and Meeting Affiliation

Feeling a close connection to North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)? We welcome inquiries about individual membership and monthly meeting affiliation. Modern modes of travel and communication make long distances a less formidable obstacle to strong relationships among Friends than was the case in previous generations. Meaningful membership is possible where the commitment to a strong and healthy relationship is sustained.

Individual Membership: In our yearly meeting, individual membership rests with a monthly meeting, not the yearly meeting. Several monthly meetings have members who live outside their local area, or outside North Carolina. The quality of the relationship between the individual and the meeting is more important than the physical distance that separates them. To begin exploring membership with us, get to know the Friends in one of our monthly meetings. Information about locations, times of worship, etc., are available from the monthly meeting contacts.

Monthly Meeting Affiliation: North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) has a long history of welcoming unaffiliated monthly meetings into the yearly meeting. The most recent of these was

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Davidson Monthly Meeting in 2009. Monthly meetings interested in exploring affiliation should begin by sending representatives to our yearly meeting sessions, Representative Body meetings, and other events (see the Calendar). If interest continues, a period of intentional inter-visitation and dialogue would follow.

3. From our Book of Discipline, the section on “Membership,” pp. 23-24:

Persons may become members of a monthly meeting in this yearly meeting by application, by birth, or by transfer from another monthly meeting.

Individuals are members in good standing of the Society of Friends in this yearly meeting if their names are recorded in the minutes of the monthly meeting as accepted into membership, and if there has been no circumstance or action to terminate such recorded membership.

Monthly meetings are asked to read and consider this report to discern if there are those in our meetings who might be led to engage with those inquiring from a distance.

32. Hospitality Report

Ray Treadway reported that there has been good attendance with 104 registered, including sixteen visitors from other yearly meetings, four regular visitors, sixty-five member adults and nineteen children. Last minute e-mail registrations were an added challenge but resolved. Mary Hobbs dormitory was filled and additional rooms were located to provide housing for all. \$1,300 was contributed to the assistance fund, which fully covers the requests received.

Appreciation was expressed for the hard work of the Hospitality Committee for all they have done to assist those attending yearly meeting sessions.

33. Friends World Committee for Consultation Report

Rachel Miller shared her experience attending the FWCC “Let the Living Water Flow” gathering in Sacramento, California. She noted that the gathering was hosted by an evangelical Friends church and participants included a broader spectrum of Friends, which was different from many of her prior FWCC gatherings. She shared the recent decision of George Fox University not to provide housing to a transgendered student and how there are continuing challenges in Friends working together in light of differences. She is continuing as a representative and beginning a three year term on the FWCC-Section of the Americas Nominating Committee.

Kristin Olsen Kennedy reported on the FWCC “Let the Living Water Flow” gathering in High Point, North Carolina. She hosted two Bolivian Friends following the gathering. She spoke about the importance of finding opportunities with those different from us, being present to the variety of communication challenges, and discovering ways we might build bridges.

34. Quaker Youth Pilgrim

Oliver Child Lanning introduced himself and shared that he will be participating this summer in the Friends World Committee for Consultation’s Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. An international program bringing together Quaker youth from a diverse group of yearly meetings, this is the first time the pilgrimage has been based in South America. Durham Monthly Meeting is providing support and he hopes to come back to our sessions next summer to report on his experiences.

Oliver also invited Friends to share his writing on being a conscientious objector with others. A paper copy is available for consultation during yearly meeting sessions and it is also available online.

35. Letter to Absent Friends

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The Letter to Absent Friends was read and, with one minor change, approved.

Remembering past times when you have been with us, we send heartfelt greetings from Friends gathered at Guilford College in Greensboro for the 317th session of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative). As we listen to summer cicadas singing and walk among the tall trees observing birds, squirrels, chipmunks, a groundhog, an opossum, the sunrises, sunsets and full moon over the Guilford Lake we hope you can imagine our time together this week.

During our time here we have been blessed by being challenged and affirmed as we conducted business, learned from afternoon interest groups, and were inspired during morning Bible study and evening programs.

Enclosed you should find our Summary of Exercises and the Young Friends epistle to give a more complete accounting of our time together from Seventh Month 9-13, 2014. Please know that you were missed.

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

36. Epistle to Friends Everywhere

The Epistle to Friends Everywhere was read and, with minor changes, approved.

To all Friends everywhere,

We in North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) send you our heartfelt greetings during this, the 317th year that Friends have met annually in North Carolina. We gathered during the week of Seventh Month 9-13, 2014 on the tree lined campus of Guilford College in Greensboro, giving thanks for the blessings of fellowship, beautiful summer weather, and the opportunity to conduct business as we focused on the theme of “Cultivating Spiritual Depth Among Conservative Friends.” Our nine monthly meetings were represented by 65 adults, 19 children and 16 visitors.

Our morning Bible studies, led by Susan Wilson, nurtured us in cultivating spiritual depth with different spiritual practices and personal reflections, including *lectio divina* (devotional reading of scripture). Each evening we considered our theme with different presenters. Fourth day evening we had a panel composed of Lloyd Lee Wilson, Carole Treadway and Rachel Miller who shared different perspectives on the question, “What does it mean to be a Conservative Friend in North Carolina?” which was followed by personal sharing out of the silence from other members. Liz Gates presented a tender and wise evening program titled “Cultivating Spiritual Depth in Daily Life”. The final evening Elizabeth Wintermute led us in the intergenerational program “Exploring Spiritual Gifts Through Faith and Play”. Each evening program was preceded by activities in which adults and children shared games, singing and knitting. The evening knitting group was inspired by one of the young boys who wanted to learn a skill his other family members could not do.

Our clerk opened the first business session with Hebrews 10:22-24, “Let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds.” Some of our sessions dealt with “Organization and Procedures,” the first section in our process of revising our *Faith and Practice: Book of Discipline*. We continue to seek discernment for funding youth activities and travel among Friends. We enthusiastically affirmed a proposal from Durham Monthly Meeting for a trial year to work with Piedmont Friends Fellowship to develop youth retreats for children and young teens in our yearly meeting and Piedmont Friends Fellowship. As in other years, we read the State of the Society

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reports and query answers from each monthly meeting so that we could better understand how “truth prospers among us”.

During the afternoons we had special interest groups on the topics: Contemplative Practice, Friends Emergency Materials Assistance Program, Friends Work in Kenya with Sammy Letoole, letter writing to prisoners, AFSC work, Becoming a Conscientious Objector, Experiences in Guanajuato, Mexico, a discussion of a new history of Progressive Friends, and excursions.

We have celebrated and been challenged during these sessions. We give thanks for the work God is doing with us, being reminded that we and all people are beloved children of God.

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

37. Epistle Ohio Yearly Meeting

The epistle to Ohio Yearly Meeting was read and approved.

Dear Friends,

“We know that in everything God works for good, with those who love him, who are called according to his purposes.” Romans 8:28 (RSV)

We gathered at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina in Seventh Month, 2014 for the 317th annual session of our yearly meeting. Our program theme was “Cultivating Spiritual Depth among Conservative Friends.” As we explored this theme together we were offered many opportunities both to open ourselves to deeper spiritual lives and to become more aware of our heritage as Conservative Friends. We enjoyed sharing our understandings of how we might deepen our spiritual lives as individuals and as a community. We celebrated many stories from our past. We recognized new initiatives are needed for us to meet the needs of our children. We highlighted the essential values that we share as Conservative Friends. But we not only shared our past, our hopes and our values, we found there were many moments where by our words, our manners, or simply our presence together we communicated our love and respect for one another as beloved children of our heavenly Father.

As we considered our identity as Conservative Friends in North Carolina Yearly Meeting, we were mindful of the other Conservative yearly meetings. Your yearly meeting was brought to our awareness more fully by your epistle to us and by the presence David Eley again here with us. This year David offered vocal ministry which illustrated how, if we do our part, then God will do God’s part, and the glory of God will be evident among us. We appreciate the faithfulness of David’s visits with us, and value the living ties which continue to bring us closer together in the Spirit.

Your Friends in Christ,
Nancy Craft, Clerk

on behalf of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

38. Epistle to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)

The epistle to Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) was read and, with minor additions, approved.

Dear Friends,

“We know that in everything God works for good, with those who love him, who are called according to his purposes.” Romans 8:28 (RSV)

We gathered at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina in Seventh Month 2014 for the 317th annual session of our yearly meeting. Our program theme was “Cultivating Spiritual Depth among Conservative Friends.” As we explored this theme together we were offered many opportunities both to open ourselves to deeper spiritual lives and to become more aware of our

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heritage as Conservative Friends. We enjoyed sharing our understandings of how we might deepen our spiritual lives as individuals and as a community. We celebrated many stories from our past. We recognized new initiatives are needed for us to meet the needs of our children. We highlighted the essential values that we share as Conservative Friends. But we not only shared our past, our hopes and our values, we found there were many moments where by our words, our manners, or simply our presence together we communicated our love and respect for one another as beloved children of our heavenly Father.

As we considered our identity as Conservative Friends in North Carolina Yearly Meeting, we were mindful of the other Conservative yearly meetings. Your yearly meeting was brought to our awareness more fully by your epistle to us and by the presence of Alice and Ruth Hampton here with us. This visit from Ruth and Alice has renewed the bonds between our yearly meetings. At the close of one of our business meetings, with time available, there was a sense that group singing was in order. As our impromptu group singing began to falter, Alice and Ruth stepped forward to offer their leadership in singing and taught us a new song. Later, our evening speaker, Elizabeth Gates, began teaching us a song which was a prayer based on Psalm 46. Ruth and Alice also helped teach the song and led the whole meeting in singing it. We appreciate such inter-visitation between our yearly meetings, and value the living ties which continue to bring us closer together in the Spirit.

Your Friends in Christ,

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

39. Request to Explore Possible Response to George Fox University's Policy

Kristin Olson Kennedy and Rachel Miller expressed that there are several in the yearly meeting interested in exploring how we might respond to George Fox University's recent decision not to house a transgendered student. The Yearly Meeting supported them bringing a report back in Tenth Month. Others sharing the concern were invited to contact Kristin and Rachel.

40. Answers to the Queries

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

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

Davidson: While it is our intention to come ready to worship, we all experience times where we lack focus. As our meeting grows, we are aware of the need to find ways to nurture ministries. Members of our meeting are comfortable expressing appreciation for vocal ministry as part of the rise of meeting and individually. We may be able to take the variety of people who give ministry in meeting as an indication of the sense of support given. It is not clear if we are encouraging those who have not yet spoken but have leadings to do so. We are clear that there is a living silence at the core of our worship. We continue to seek ways to deepen our commitment to the Light and one another in worship.

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Durham: After moments of deep silence, friends shared from their personal experiences. The queries help us examine and test ourselves. There are those of us who speak often and others almost never. Friends are challenged to examine our own hearts and minds so that we are open to create both silence and vocal ministry. Friends spoke about the richness of our living silence. We are grateful that experiencing worship teaches us how to participate in it.

Fayetteville: We do uphold our testimony for worship based in silent waiting. Some felt they could do a better job in being ready to give vocal ministry. We do encourage vocal ministry, but do not feel the need for vocal ministry to have a gathered meeting.

Friendship: Meeting for worship continues to be the foundation of the spiritual and communal life of Friendship Meeting. We find the silence to be dynamic and nurturing, and we are often blessed by vocal ministry that inspires messages from other members and attenders. The Worship & Ministry committee reflected on our practice of breaking meeting this year, and revised our process by transitioning quietly from worship to a time of joys and concerns at the appointed hour. This change has allowed us to preserve the wholeness of the time of worship, while at the same time providing a period of time for personal sharings still grounded in the silence. As part of this transition, we also discontinued the practice of afterthoughts because of a concern that this might be in tension with vocal ministry. We have also scheduled a forum to deepen our understanding in the meeting of the discernment process in vocal ministry.

Greenville: Sometimes it all clicks and we feel tuned into the Spirit and leave refreshed and renewed. Other times we feel distracted, scattered or inattentive. Like the Apostles, we are sometimes disappointingly human. It is a good thing God takes us as we are. Vocal ministry partakes of the same mixture of the human and the divine. We feel a sense of corporate responsibility to encourage and raise up what is good in us.

Rich Square: Our meetings do gather in silent waiting worship, trusting that we will be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in a ministry that is shared by all. There are times in our daily lives when we are aware of that living silence which we find in worship. We seek to find that.

Virginia Beach: At least one of us does not feel the Christ-centered language is connecting but rather separates them from others in the meeting. Others hope we could move beyond the words and into the spirit of the message of caring for one another, of being present to the living silence. The message of Christ, however, can be seen here and in all religions as the message of loving one another. Sharing worship with others in holy places has been a tender experience and it is felt that our experience with others is interconnected. We respect the searching that each of us undertakes to find our place in Spirit and we hope that others who visit us also feel a connection to us.

West Grove: We feel that we are generally clear under the various outward heads of this query, though we feel that it would be very helpful if there were more opportunity for us to discuss our faith. A pre-meeting Bible study on First Days has been helpful in this regard.

Wilmington: As a meeting we feel that we uphold our testimony by meeting in free and unprogrammed silence for worship. All attendees, both member and non-member are welcome to speak during the gathering of silence. In our living silence we have felt an increase in our spiritual depth and our connection to each other by the Light of God. We conducted a few peace-centered prayers that have been helpful for drawing us together as a community. In our daily lives, we attempt to stay mindful of the power of God in our midst by reflecting upon our meeting for worship. Each week, worship is conducted with open hearts and minds. Our meeting believes that

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we have encouraged others and encouraged the opening in ourselves. We continue to seek various methods to help encourage those who may have the gift.

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

Davidson: Some are not in regular attendance, but this can be a joy when the absences are due to participating in the wider Quaker world, experiences which are then brought back to deepen our meetings for worship. Many Friends are committed to being present as long as they are in town, and having specific people regularly present has been experienced as critical to the life of the community. While we often will have latecomers, it is felt that their presences are important and it is better that they be there, even if late. There is an understanding of real value to being on time. Open submission was observed to be not only internal, but also being open and accepting of external conditions that may be around us.

Durham: Out of gathered silence, Friends spoke of our individual and corporate responses to the query. As a meeting, we have established effective approaches to minimizing disturbances that may be caused by late arrivals. Members are able to enter into the Spirit of a gathered people from the time they arrive on the grounds, through the process of welcoming other Friends, entering into the silence of meeting for worship, and departing into the world. When this occurs, any disturbance can be absorbed into the flow of worship.

We tend to focus on the first sentence of the query, perhaps because the concept of open submission to God means many different things to individual Friends. We are tender about these differences, while sharing the common experience of the Spirit moving among us.

Fayetteville: Being small, meeting absences are noticed. We try to attend when possible, and try to be on time. We are reminded that we are not to have an agenda, but come asking “Thy will be done.”

Friendship: Attendance varies considerably, influenced by the academic schedule and holidays. Some members come only occasionally. However, there is a core of faithful attenders who, by God’s grace, maintain the life and spirit of worship for those who do not come as often. We rejoice that a few members who had not attended for a long time have recently begun attending again. We are aware that attendance alone is not enough, that the life and spirit of worship require preparation of mind and heart by each one of us. Meeting is seldom “disturbed” by anything other than the welcome sounds of children. Most people who come to meeting for worship arrive on time or even a little early. Those who come a little later do not prevent or delay the settling of meeting. There is no pattern of behavior that indicates anything other than open submission to God in silent communion.

Greenville: Friends are faithful in attendance and are missed when they cannot attend. How open our submission to the spirit is depends on what worries and concerns are in our hearts. Often it is helpful to bring these concerns and lay them before God. Trying to control our minds and suppress worries can be a form of self-will that can actually strengthen them.

Rich Square: Friends in our meeting are faithful in attending as they are able. Many members and attenders of our meeting live long distances away so that they are unable to be present weekly. We are thankful for their faithfulness in traveling at least once a month. When people arrive late, the spirit of our meeting is lifted by the presence of another worshipper among us. We believe our members are in submission to God as we wait in worship. When silence is broken by

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a young child's bubbling forth, our worship is enhanced by the joy of new life as we feel further grounded in being human before God.

Virginia Beach: We rejoice at each individual who is present for worship. No matter the time of their arrival, Spirit is here waiting for us. Consideration of this query leaves us with a positive feeling, especially when the children enter just before the rise of meeting. We reach out as best we can to those who seldom attend, hoping to see them soon again.

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

Wilmington: We feel our attendance at meeting for worship is faithful with the understanding that the members attending this query are the regular attendees. We strive to encourage individuals who do not regularly attend to know we are here without pressure. The choice to regularly attend meeting is an individual one, and we would like to encourage all attendance to be faithful. When members are late to meeting, entrance to the meeting is discrete as to not disturb the spirit of the meeting. We hold that it is within the spirit of the meeting to recognize the various needs of the attendees. The importance is that we all gather and are present for the meeting. We feel that late arrivals do not cause an issue within our meeting. Regular attendance creates an opportunity to ease into the open submission to God in silent communion as a meeting. We strive to put all of ourselves into the silent communion each week in order to gain the most from each meeting for worship. As we worship together, we are conscious of sharing our time together to share our individual searches. Our silence allows us time to connect during our meeting for worship.

Query #3: *Do we follow the teachings of Jesus and seek the inspiration of His Holy Spirit in our daily lives? Are love and unity maintained among us? Do we cultivate a forgiving spirit, and do we avoid and discourage needless and destructive criticism of others? When differences arise, do we endeavor promptly to resolve them in a spirit of love, honesty, and humility?*

Davidson: We have differences, but in general have a feeling of warmth among us and aren't divided by conflicts. Finding unity about whether to try to incorporate benches from West Grove Meeting into our meeting room was an example of our ability to resolve differences in a spirit of love and humility. We could be characterized as non-judgmental, cooperative, and supportive, reflecting the teachings of Jesus, and this impacts the ways we interact with other people. However, in our individual lives, some of us feel that we could do more to act lovingly.

Durham: In gathered silence, Friends reflected on the meaning of the query for each of us as individuals and for the meeting as a whole. This query speaks to our attempts to create a community of God's Spirit among us, to focus on the positive things that build community, and to forgive the imperfections. When differences among individuals are resolved, we can enter into meeting for business and other interactions with each other in a spirit of love and unity. The meeting cultivates a tender, forgiving spirit and avoids needless and destructive criticism, as shown by a lack of gossip about conflicts outside the committees charged with resolving these differences. Individual members are challenged and encouraged to focus first on maintaining loving connections as we endeavor to resolve differences that arise. Friends are also encouraged not to avoid talking about problems out of fear of unpleasantness, but rather to engage in open conversation that creates space for creative, Spirit-led restoration of unity.

Fayetteville: Although we realize our human limitations, we follow the teachings of Jesus as we understand them. Even when we disagree, we maintain unity in the Spirit. Following all the points of this of this query is an on-going goal for us.

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Friendship: In our individual and meeting corporate lives we continue to seek the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit and strive to follow Jesus's teachings of love and unity and forgiveness. When differences arise we strive to find resolution with a forgiving spirit and promptly as possible resolve them with honesty, humility and love. We realize that sometimes we fall short. We continue to be mindful of making efforts to know one another at deeper levels and to share our spiritual lives, open to seeking unity and respect when differences are recognized. As a meeting, we continue with grace and deep listening to seek God's will for us.

Greenville: Normally we see each other only for an hour or two in Sunday morning and consequently know too little about each other's personal lives. In these lives each of us faces real challenges to follow the example and teachings of Jesus. To act positively and lovingly in the face of difficult circumstances requires humility. Humility is really needed to avoid responding with anger to situations that fall short of our sense of the ideal.

Rich Square: We believe we follow Jesus' teachings and hope that we are open to and understand the fullness of them. We are not aware of any disunity among us.

Virginia Beach: We can follow the teachings of Jesus that speak to us, such as the Light within. The challenge of maintaining love and unity involves striking a balance. Being part of a faith community helps to achieve that balance. Resolving differences in a spirit of love, honesty, and humility are universal principles of good human relations, no matter what their origin.

West Grove: We feel that we endeavor, as best we can, to follow Jesus' teaching and inspiration in our daily lives, and we feel that our members are in unity with each other.

Wilmington: Love and unity is maintained among us within the meeting. The small size and lack of diversity might make this easier. We follow the teachings of Jesus. We love one another and new attenders feel welcomed and loved. We try to maintain a forgiving spirit and noted in our conversation that we get along with everyone discussing the group and individuals without criticism. We resolve differences in a spirit of love, honesty and humility, but not always in a timely manner. We endeavor promptly to determine if we should react promptly or if we should simply wait and let issues settle themselves.

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

Davidson: For our small group of people, we continue to be amazed by how so many participate in cleaning, caring for children, keeping us functioning and keeping the community financially sound. Some struggled with how the query was written, and didn't feel that the wording invites life, but feels judgmental.

Durham: We strive to live in the spirit of grace, allowing the Divine to flow through us, giving generously of our time, talents and possessions. When we give from this space of abundance, our gifts are multiplied in the lives and work of others. We appreciate the candor that is present in meeting. Our financial needs are expressed clearly and openly with the understanding that individuals will discern their rightful share. A friend raised concern that roughly half of members and attenders do not contribute financially. He encouraged us to listen deeply and to ask the question, "Why?" Another friend noted that at the beginning, community members seek acceptance and nurturing. As they receive this, they begin to wonder what they have to offer the community. We are thankful for the work of Nominating Committee, connecting peoples' time

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and talents to the needs of the Meeting. We will continue to be thoughtful about how best to engage ourselves fully and freely in the life of the Meeting.

Fayetteville: We all support the meeting in the ways we are able. We assume the responsibilities that best suit our own abilities. It was felt we all give equally of our time and talents as able. We were reminded of how interdependent we are with everyone else, and this helps us share freely with others. Sometimes we forget that everything we have is on loan to us.

Friendship: The meeting as a whole does regard time, talents and resources as given in trust. As needs are expressed, appropriate responses have come from members and attenders in meeting. When individual and family needs have arisen in the past year, we have attempted to respond to those needs financially, as well as with our time and talent. We recognize in the past year the emotional and physical support of some of our members has fallen particularly to a few generous souls in the meeting and we need to be mindful of those who are caring for others. Financial contributions allowed the meeting to nearly meet its budget, maintain good stewardship of our physical space and make contributions to the various Quaker organizations and local community groups which we wish to support.

We continue to discuss ideas for new meetinghouse space. While expanded space ideas are still developing we are aware that we need to consider raising building funds. Appropriate committees have been established to consider these needs. All of our committees are active and committee members share their talents generously. We feel a sense of gratitude for the blessing of the Spirit that our community experiences in giving and receiving.

Greenville: We are blessed to be able to share our time, talents and resources with others both within and beyond our Meeting. The needs around us seem almost limitless compared to our very limited powers. To remain in balance we need to acknowledge our own needs and be good stewards of the resources we have to share.

Rich Square: During the past months, all our meeting operating expenditures were met by contributions. We have not needed to draw on reserves. This was not the case one year ago. We have an increased number of members participating in the meeting. We also have more people contributing with time, talents and in-kind contributions. Our members and attenders also make contributions to a variety of concerns for the needs of others beyond the meeting.

Virginia Beach: This query is about involvement in the life of the meeting, and those of us assembled can truly answer "yes." We recalled that Walter Brown gifted land for the meeting to us. Out of love, we give to the meeting. Whether it is our time and talents, or our money, we find a joy in return, no matter how long we have been a part of the community. We are fortunate to have a growing core group of people who continue the work to keep it alive.

West Grove: Our members are generally faithful in supporting the meeting financially, and we trust we are clear under the other heads of this query.

Wilmington: We feel that as faith community, we are very mindful of the best and most relevant use of our resources and open to leadings beyond past experiences. Besides meeting our monthly expenses, we are committed to making sure that our building is available to be used by ourselves or other organizations that reflect and confirm Quaker testimonies. With the leaving of Voces Latinas, we are faced with the opportunity to reevaluate how best to ensure that our facility is used for the greater community good. We look forward to addressing this important issue, and are determined to see our building be more than a place for us to worship for a few hours a week. While we feel it has been important to have a place of permanence and a presence in our

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community, we are also eager to embrace new avenues of outreach as our time and talents allow. We have much to consider and much to be excited about. As our Friend Bob observed, "There is no limit to the good one can do in life, if one is not concerned with who gets the credit."

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

Davidson: We acknowledge that while it is not always possible to attend business meetings. We are aware of how much important work is done and the value of the presence each one of us contributes. Attending business meeting also helps individuals feel more connected and provides ways to contribute meaningfully to the community. We have been able to live into the spirit of love, understanding and forbearance in addressing recent issues.

Durham: In the broad sense, our answer to both questions in the query is "yes." It is sometimes challenging to rise to the standard described in the query as we attempt to maintain the sense of proportion needed to deal with administrative and financial details in a worshipful manner, but we work hard to maintain it as our ideal and are often successful. Members spoke of experiencing a strong sense of worship during meeting for Business, and of feeling appreciation and gratitude when a sense of unity is reached and recorded through Quaker process. It was noted that our youth experience Junior Meeting for Business as a deeply worshipful time and that silence is an important part of these meetings. A spirit of forbearance helps us to remember that we are all in this together during those times when, despite our best efforts, we have difficulty seeking a Godly outcome. In a large meeting such as ours, a relatively small proportion of members and attenders regularly participate in meeting for business. While we would like to see the number of participants grow, it is even more important that the process of decision-making be transparent and that the meeting as a whole trusts that those present at meeting for business are seeking Divine guidance. We seek continued growth in this area as well.

Fayetteville: We do regularly attend our meetings for business. We allow everyone to speak their mind on anything being considered and usually find the course of action easily. We often come to agreement even when there are sometimes differences on an issue.

Friendship: We have a faithful group of fifteen to twenty members and attenders who regularly participate in our meeting for business each month. We need to do a better job of encouraging others to take an active role and an interest in discerning the policies, character, and actions of our community. The number of persons attending business meeting has increased in the past year. We certainly try to undertake our decision making in submission to the authority of truth, but from time to time we need to be reminded to return to the center. We are called to temper our process of logical discourse and efficiency with remembering we are engaged in the patient search for a sense of unity under Divine Guidance.

Greenville: Our business meetings are regularly conducted and well attended in an atmosphere of warm spirituality marked by genuine listening.

Rich Square: A small number of our members do regularly attend business meetings. A larger number of our members, who live at a distance, receive our minutes and are in communication with the clerk about business concerns at various times. Our business is conducted in the manner described in this query.

Virginia Beach: We feel we have made progress towards greater faithfulness, humility, and

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patience. We are thankful for benefits that this resilience has contributed to the survival of our faith community. A spirit-given vision for our future will help us to discern when to be patient, and when to seek change. We can find Spirit by living in the now, and accepting the uncertainty and the mystery of faith. We are challenged to listen to the voice of Spirit in others, in order to seek a unity of that vision in our business together.

West Grove: There are generally five or more Friends who are consistently present for meetings for business, and we feel our meetings are owned by the presence of the Head of the Church.

Wilmington: The concern is not so much with the decisions but with the love of the process. In the recent years, we have not had contention with members addressing only his or her specific needs on an issue. In that time, we worked through the Quaker process of consensus. In the past year, we have felt that our meetings for business have been able to steer us toward the right course of action. We have found that maintaining a focus on similar goals allows us the ability to hold our meeting in the spirit of love, understanding, and forbearance. Half of the problem can be to define the question and define the goal. In our search for consensus, we consistently attempt our humble submission to the Authority of Truth. The patience we give to the process allows us to connect on a level that is pursuing a deeper sense of unity under Divine guidance. On the point of faithful attendance, we have a higher percentage of attendees stay for meeting for business.

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

Davidson Monthly Meeting: This is a year that we can answer yes as the curriculum for the older children follows the sense of the query. And the program for the young also encourages a sense of belonging, wonder, and openness. We are grateful for the First Day school committee and others working with the children and their gifts and joy in their work and to the children for the joy they bring us. We endeavor to make the children feel welcome and cherished. The meeting continues our practice of celebrating as a community individuals as they reach 16 years of age.

Durham: The children teach us by their example. Friends spoke lovingly of individual children whose exuberance, openness and curiosity bring joy to our meeting. Our teenagers express their faith with confidence while possessing the humility to reexamine their religious beliefs. They teach us flexibility and openness of mind. In our young adults, we see the Spirit of God lead them, and we are blessed to witness their faith take root and flower. We see that by our example and precept, we have created fertile ground for their spiritual lives. In ourselves, we recognize the call to be like children. To allow ourselves to be vulnerable and transparent, so that the Light within us might break forth. From our own childhoods, we remember when adults connected deeply with us, and we recognize the profound impact that we can have on the lives of children in meeting. While not all of us are called to work directly with the children in meeting, we welcome the opportunity to be touched by their journeys.

Fayetteville: We don't have any children in our meeting, but do work with children within our families and those we know.

Friendship: We are blessed to have a growing number of young friends in the meeting and the presence of the children has strengthened the meeting. For the first time in many years we have been challenged to differentiate age groups between the youngest and school aged children in our

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First day school program. We are very fortunate to have an active and dedicated Religious Education Committee working on a curriculum that aids the children's growth in spiritual understanding and shares with them the faith that guides the practice of friends. Through the First Day school, the children are active members of Friendship Meeting taking part in meeting for worship and social action projects. On the fifth First Day of the month, the young friends are the greeters, sit at head of meeting and make the announcements at the rise of meeting. They have recently formed their own young friend's business meeting purposing to meet on second First Days of the month. The Religious Education committee also supports parents in upholding these Quaker values at home.

Greenville: As our children are grown, our attention turns to our grandchildren, and to care for children in our community through volunteer activities. All children belong to God and are precious to us.

Rich Square: Having only one toddler in attendance, our meeting has no children's religious program. We seek to be open to opportunities for interactions consistent with this query with children in our local community. We continue to sponsor the Woodland Children's Community Garden.

Virginia Beach: We find ourselves pushing on the boundaries of this query. Reflecting on the generations of children that have been raised in the meeting, we see many engaged in the work of the spirit, though few active in the meeting now. Teaching openness and expectancy about life is a commitment at the heart of our school, an endeavor in which we participate in the care of over one hundred and fifty children. And we seek growth in openness and expectancy for ourselves and for all in the meeting. Sometimes this desire for openness leads us to question the meaning of formulae like "the spirit of God." A further openness is needed to hear this language anew. We see evidence the seed has been planted.

West Grove: We feel we do endeavor to share our faith with our children as best we can.

Wilmington: No answer provided for this query.

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

Davidson: As a meeting we continue our practice of writing letters around issues of war preparation and encouraging diplomatic and aid efforts. We are considering ways on the local and state levels of reducing violent political discourse, and advocating for more rational responses. Some members have participated in a non-violent communications class in the meeting this year. We also considered the small daily challenges and opportunities we have to witness for peace and encourage reflection on language and care for those around us. We have seen how living with respect for others can reduce the need for aggression and the weapons of war.

Durham: "To live in the life and power that takes away the occasion of all war" brings us back to the Christian roots of early Quakers and the importance of living from our hearts, which is the foundation of this query. It reminds us that we need to seek and attain peace within ourselves before we can truly seek reconciliation among individuals, groups and nations. Doing so, however, is very difficult. The query states a set of principles, but real life situations in which some kind of conflict often exists, trigger fear and anxiety, the result of our woundedness. Part of

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living a life of peace is recognizing where we are wounded and being vigilant about reacting from a place of woundedness. When we feel powerless, we often try to engender and escalate conflict. We need to be vigilant and help to lessen power disparities, whether social, economic or political. Where we can we need to raise up others, being careful of using what power we have in the guise of peacefulness. We need to work towards peace unceasingly, both in times of peace and in times of war. American Friends Service Committee and Friends Committee on National Legislation came out of World War I and World War II, respectively, as creative ways to respond to war. As Friends we should support their work at the policy level. Violence and conflict in many forms are so prevalent today that sometimes we feel dispirited. But one of the gifts of the meeting is supporting one another as we try to live in the life and power that takes away the occasion of all war. The Quaker process of spiritual discernment and decision-making is essential to our living in this way as a meeting, and we need to nurture it continually.

Fayetteville: As individuals we realize peace begins with us and try to live peacefully in our families and in our community. As a corporate body we support organizations such as Quaker House that work for Peace. We have joined in the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund. We feel there is a need to have peaceful dialogue and understanding between races.

Friendship: In a time where the gap between the haves and have nots grows ever larger, this disparity leads to violence as a solution to seemingly insolvable situations. Often cultural and religious differences compound these problems. We strive to mitigate inequality by reminding ourselves to be active in our own meeting and in the world to bring about a more just society through non-violent means. Currently our primary focus is on the local level. We seek to avoid practices that contribute, however subtly, to the war system that dominates our society. We are aware, however, this is problematic for those of us who, for the most part, use more than our fair share of the world's resources.

Greenville: Our feelings on the Peace Testimony run deep and our life experiences are varied. We are not in complete unity about the Peace Testimony at this time.

Rich Square: We do endeavor to live in the life and power of which this query speaks. We see the work of reconciliation as crucial, being more than opposing war. The work of reconciliation is difficult because of our human tendency to be satisfied with our positions and prejudices.

Virginia Beach: It seems that many can agree on the first sentence of this query. It is the second, being faithful to our peace testimony, where Friends stand apart from most faith communities. We are challenged to continue to be "lit up" enough with the fire of this testimony to stay active in maintaining it. Much of our local economy depends upon preparations for war, making it more difficult for many of us employed here not to participate in some way. There is also an opportunity to bear witness against the "war of words" that exists in our political dialogue. Our school affords us many other opportunities for this witness. Peace begins at home, and our example can be effective at all levels.

West Grove: We feel our meeting maintains our testimony for peace and against war to the best of our ability.

Wilmington: No answer provided for this query.

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*

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debts, and just in all our dealings? Do we choose those activities which will strengthen our physical, mental and spiritual life; and do we avoid those harmful to ourselves and others?

Davidson: No answer provided for this query.

Durham: As a meeting and as individuals our lives manifest a commitment to simplicity in many ways. We are inspired by each other in being prompt in the payment of debts, being mindful about the number and usefulness of our clothes and other possessions, reducing fuel consumption by using bicycle transportation, and many other ways, large and small. Nonetheless, we encounter complications in our efforts to live simply. We know that it involves far more than just avoiding ostentation and overconsumption. We see that particular decisions, such as whether to meet in person or via electronic media, can be interpreted many different ways in relation to what is "simple." We find ourselves in situations such as some jobs and schools that seem to demand that we lie or act in a showy way to impress. In the context of global income inequality, with large proportions of the world's people living in dire poverty, the query prompts us to reflect on our role as relatively wealthy people.

In order to negotiate these pressures and be gentle as a dove in this world it is also necessary to be wise as a serpent. Inward simplicity leads to outward simplicity and increases our ability to be punctual, keep promises and act with integrity. We are not as vigilant as we could be in attending to our inward lives and often feel we don't have the time because we are overcommitted to activities for superficial gratification.

Simplicity ultimately is that which feeds our spirit and answers that of God in others. The form of this may vary from one person or situation to another. It is not ours to judge whether someone's spirit is fed by brightness and color or by sober gray. Jesus said, "I and the Father are one." Knowing who we are and being able to rely on that rather than on externals simplifies all of our decisions and gives us the freedom to be who we ought to be - or indeed, to live as who we really are.

Fayetteville: We noted how our society tries to get us to overload ourselves with more than we need, but felt that to be able to live in this Query in opposition to that benefits us. We are also reminded of how this query helps us in being able to live in accordance with other queries such as the Peace Testimony as we are not peaceful when we are greedy, and in living in harmony with nature; and how it is important to take care that purchases we make don't hurt others.

Friendship: We strive, as a meeting and individually, to maintain a state where our actions are in harmony with our beliefs. We endeavor to manage our commitments so that we are not unduly stressed. We work to be sure we are not wasteful of spiritual or material resources. We appreciate the need to focus on this query as we consider how to proceed on altering our meetinghouse or building a new one.

Greenville: It is not realistic to expect that we can completely isolate ourselves from harmful influences but we can choose to set some boundaries to protect ourselves. Life is complicated and perhaps it has always been. Friends told stories of taking the trouble to return money after discovering that an overpayment had been made. The world doesn't understand or appreciate such honesty but we feel that returning the money is in right order.

Rich Square: We are unaware of any exceptional departures from the counsel of this query. It is our hope that we, helping one another, may live more fully into the spirit of the query

Virginia Beach: As a meeting, Friends focused on the choice of activities as an area we might want to examine more carefully going forward. We were reminded by this query that John

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Woolman and other early Friends were led by this kind of self-examination to conclude that slavery was wrong. As individuals, perhaps simplicity is the most elusive of these qualities in modern times. Many of us do not experience our lives as simple and we sometimes question just what that means.

West Grove: West Grove Friends, while clear to respond affirmatively to the various points of this query, found in consideration of it new insights. We recognize living into the query requires both balance and vigilance on our part. We must exercise care not to exalt form over substance, noting that it is possible to be just but not honest in our dealings.

Wilmington: We feel that we are meeting these guidelines in ourselves and are attempting to share that influence with others. In a cultural system that seems to dismiss simplicity, we strive to be honest and simple in our own homes. We pass the value of paying debts on time to others in our family. Our members are in various stages of their lives economically. Some of us are focusing on promptly paying personal debts, while other members are facing the lifestyle changes associated with retirement. All of us believe that no matter the situation, that simplicity can and should be adjusted to meet the changes life will inevitably bring. The key to maintaining a simple and happy life is balance and moderation in physical, mental, and spiritual actions. We are mindful of the benefits of simplicity in our manner of living.

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

Davidson: No answer provided for this query.

Durham: This query provokes varied and multifaceted responses among Friends. The testimonies embedded in it suggest a conception of sin as an action that turns one away from God, Spirit, and neighbors. This conception helps us to talk with others, including young friends, about why they might choose to engage in or avoid particular activities.

Some Friends feel strongly that this query needs to be rewritten. Although some Friends follow all of the testimonies, many do not. Examples include alcohol use, medications that have harmful side effects, investments that help us grow richer at the expense of others, and entertainments that can be demoralizing. There is a concern that these testimonies may conflict with a desire to welcome everyone, including individuals from all walks of life who, for whatever reason, do not adhere to all of them.

This query asks us to consider our individual manner of living as well as our corporate response. As a meeting, we share and support these testimonies through adult education and our youth program. These activities help us to be more mindful in our individual lives and bring us closer to the Spirit. We share these testimonies with the community through the kinds of activities we participate in and our guidelines for the kinds of activities the meetinghouse may be used for.

This query and the testimonies embedded in it drive home the depth of what it means to be a Quaker. Friends do not wish to be hypocritical. We wish to be mindful and choose activities that turn us toward a life of the Spirit, avoiding all activities that tend to have the opposite effect.

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Fayetteville: None of us uses tobacco or other harmful drugs. One mentioned she had a glass of wine sometimes. We are aware that using alcoholic beverages may set a bad example to others. We do not feel any of us are getting rich at the expense of others. We saw this query as focusing on overindulgence, which is too easy to do. We are reminded that our not taking oaths is due to believing we should tell the truth all of the time.

Friendship: Our intention is to always be present and available to spiritual energy from wherever it comes to us. It may come from ourselves, from the people we live with, or from any source of life. Our society today is very complex and the specific behaviors listed in this query are dated. Our challenge is to limit distractions from our intention by many behaviors that make it difficult for us to be present. These include food and beverage consumption, over working, consuming substances illegal and prescriptive, managing stress and anger, and electronic media focus that limit our ability to be present. Each of us has different physical, mental, and spiritual reactions to all of these behaviors. It is important that we continually attend to these reactions and adjust our behaviors towards being as present to spiritual energy as possible.

It is the intention of our meeting to be a safe and therapeutic place to increase our attention towards being present to spiritual energy. Our un-programmed worship is helpful to us in maintaining presence to spiritual energy from wherever it comes to us.

Greenville: We feel a rigid list of prohibitions is not very helpful, but a reminder to be watchful not to indulge in excess of things that are good in moderation is useful. Many things besides alcohol are harmful in excess. Computer games, sports, even work can become addictions.

Rich Square: As far as we know we are clear under the headings of this query. We are mindful of the physical, mental and spiritual dangers of harmful substances and activities and we seek to avoid them.

Virginia Beach: This query lists a variety of temptations. Growing rich at the expense of others is a form of greed. There are many temptations today that take advantage of others. This query challenges us to consider carefully our actions as an individual and as a community.

West Grove: There are Friends who drink alcoholic beverages, but to our knowledge no one is addicted to their use. Moderation rather than abstinence may be an acceptable practice in our meeting. The query refers to our "testimony" against the use of alcohol; Faith and Practice does not recognize abstinence as a testimony. What we take into our bodies affects us and other people. We hold this in the forefront of our lives. We feel we are mindful of all parts of this query, seeking to remain clear to our witness.

Wilmington: While this query is more personal than some others, we found consensus around our acknowledgement of the temptation that can be caused through practicing these habits. We maintain focused on avoiding these habits through abstinence and awareness of refraining from over indulgence. Through the range of interpretations we discussed, we believe our adherence to this query is valid and pertains to the various lifestyles of our members. Generally, we abstain from these behaviors and remain focused on avoiding overindulgence. We live to be an example of love and remained focused on the big picture. The advices were also read at this query.

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

Davidson: We have supported community efforts to preserve greenspace, and have written letters of concern about hydraulic fracturing methods of drilling and the associated risks to the

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environment. We live in communities that are aware of energy inefficiencies and we support their efforts to become more efficient. In planning our meetinghouse, we were aware of wanting to be able to connect to nature around us and incorporated that into the design. We furnished the meetinghouse with second-hand items that otherwise might have gone to a landfill, and made sure that most of the windows could be opened as a possible alternative to using energy on climate control. And we especially are aware of each other as irreplaceable resources in our community

Durham: No answer provided for this query.

Fayetteville: We do have an appreciation and love of nature and the earth. This may help us to do better in living in harmony with nature. We continue to educate ourselves to try to be careful in our stewardship of the world's resources. We need to let our awareness of this lead us to take actions.

Friendship: We are aware that this query has a spiritual basis implied in the first sentence and its practical application in the second sentence. We desire to live in harmony with nature and have adjusted our manner of living, individually, as we are able. As a meeting, we take small steps in our meetinghouse, which is inadequate for the purpose of conservation and efficiency, such as recycling waste materials and reducing the use of energy with a programmable thermostat and a timer on our water heater. We recognize that we have not yet taken up a public witness for concerns with the environment, climate change, and eco-justice.

Greenville: It's hard to feel at peace about our relationship with nature when the issues seem so large. There are a lot of different ways people can make individual efforts to live more gently on the earth from eating less meat to driving smaller cars. We must be wary of adopting a "greener than thou" attitude towards others who don't share our sense of which efforts are most beneficial. It was felt that the most important thing of all is to improve our sense of a loving connection with other people and that this is somehow the key to healing humanity's connection with nature.

Rich Square: We do endeavor to live in harmony with nature and are aware of the impact that we humans have on the natural world. Although we are aware of the limitations of individual actions, we feel that individual actions are important for increasing our awareness of right relationship to the earth. Our meeting has made an effort to nurture in our town's residents awareness and respect for the earth by developing a community children's garden on the meeting grounds. We hope this community activity fosters in the town's citizens a better awareness of nature and mindfulness of our relationship to the earth.

Virginia Beach: Living in harmony with nature is easy when it is peaceful and comforting. To do this when nature is frightening, such as in a tornado or flood, is much more challenging. We become more aware of our interdependence as we learn about more recent challenges, especially to our limited freshwater supply, from pollution in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, to such modern practices as hydro-fracking for natural gas. Our meeting and school are doing much to raise community awareness of these. We bear not only a corporate, but an individual responsibility to do what we can. We know that if we devote more attention to what is going on around us in nature, we will discover more ways to carry out the goals of this query.

West Grove: We do endeavor as a meeting to live into this query. With the number of farms in our meeting, practicing responsible stewardship of the land and all that lives and grows on it we are working, too, for preservation. Too often in our daily lives the power structure of our country through legislative actions make us as Friends unwilling participants in the destruction of

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resources and people. In bewilderment we ask how do we live truth. As a nation we are losing our regard for life while our thirst for wealth and power grows.

Wilmington: Our meeting is aware of the importance of stewardship with nature. Recently, we have focused some of our efforts on a memorial garden. We have regarded the planning with great care acknowledging the environmental impact of the living plants. Our meeting has also worked to decrease the building's use of irreplaceable resources. As part of a coastal community, we are aware of nature and the effects humans have had on our environment. We feel that at an individual level, we are careful with our stewardship. We find that the lifestyle of the developed nations, does allow people to be removed from the impacts of the environment. Individuals in the meeting are working in their own lives to challenge environmental issues that address the population at a larger scale.

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

Davidson: We recognize in the current tensions in the world how fortunate we are. We are grateful for the feeling that the people we come into contact with generally are people of good will and for feeling free to practice our religion without fear of persecution. However it can be difficult to be concerned about and tolerant of those people behaving with what we perceive to be intolerance or destructive behavior. As a meeting we have made efforts to support Quaker and local organizations that are seeking to bring about social justice, but have struggled with understanding how to respond to recent state and national legislative actions that seem to be favoring the few rather than the many.

Durham: No answer provided for this query.

Fayetteville: We do reverence that of God in every human being, and have concerns for the needs of people regardless of their beliefs because of this. We support causes that work to rectify existing social injustice, and try to live our lives in a way that shows our beliefs as opportunities arise.

Friendship: As a meeting, we endeavor to recognize that of God in everyone. Our quest is to show concern not only for individual needs but also to witness in our efforts to provide material assistance such as offering our meetinghouse space to individuals and groups. We recognize the ongoing need to rectify social injustice everywhere in part by making our meeting house available to outside groups, whose presence educates and informs us on wider issues that are consistent with our own social justice concerns.

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee brings issues to us. Recently the meeting wrote a minute opposing the death penalty to share with the community through the newspaper and to send to the North Carolina governor and our state and federal legislative representatives. A forum also was held that included a film and a panel discussion about the lives and working conditions of local migrant workers.

Greenville: Social justice is not a matter of following abstract principles but rather it is always something personal. We come into face to face contact with individuals whose needs and gifts are all unique and who often try our patience in unique ways. Following immediate guidance of the Holy Spirit in our personal lives often requires turning the other cheek in little ways and we understand that we are called to do this here and now.

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Rich Square: As a meeting and as individual members we strive to be aware of the gifts and needs of each person. We intend to act on this awareness, but there are times when we fail to do so. We seek to change attitudes and behaviors in ourselves which contribute to social injustices and then share those concerns with sensitivity on a person to person basis. As a meeting we have not seen the way open for corporate social justice witness during this year.

Virginia Beach: As individuals, we cannot help but discriminate in all we perceive. If we look deeper to the God within, the similarities become more apparent. Mankind is uniquely able to reason and choose similarities over differences. We are reminded that our society is based on white privilege. It is in those random acts of kindness that we gain awareness that we are all part of the human family.

West Grove: We feel, as a meeting, that we are living into this query. Much we do not see or get done. Our community trusts that we will be faithful in our measure. There is no special work for social justice underway in the meeting. We ask ourselves where we are called to serve. Are there needs in our community as international, national or state social justice seem beyond our meeting abilities. We need to silently seek discernment together as we work to determine our call. As this year closes, the guidance we receive can provide direction for the coming year.

Wilmington: We believe there is that of God in everyone. Holding this belief compels us to act to rectify social injustices and discrimination. We try to find the redeeming qualities in everyone, even if that of God seems smaller or hidden. We hold ourselves open to the idea that while others may not choose to listen to the voice within, there is always hope and possibility that the light will shine. Our expectation that there is good in others leads us to find the decent. We work to rectify social and racial injustice in our community and the world at large. We reflect upon how our operation as a small group that is part of a larger system can contribute to the creation of social justice. Our meetinghouse was known as 'the little schoolhouse' while Voces Latinas was using the building. Many members are active politically in an effort to stand up for the rights of individuals. We are mindful that our contributions add to the total of the world at large, and we continue to look toward the future.

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

Davidson: This query brought warm memories of warm welcome for ourselves and for our children years ago and hopes that current newcomers received the same. New attenders affirm that they have felt welcomed by members and by our space. We are grateful for an increase in the attendance of college students and that we are able to provide suppers and gatherings to support them. We acknowledge that our small size both makes it possible to recognize new people and sometimes limits how much outreach and care we can offer. Thanks were offered to all those who have supported families connected and not connected to our meeting. We look forward with anticipation to greeting more new attenders, especially younger ones, and those who may be moved to become members.

Durham: We had a rich time of reflection on the query. We believe that the silence welcomes us all to open ourselves to transformation. It is our direct experience and guidance of the Spirit that brings us into relationship with one another. One Friend mentioned that it is not just agreement

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with the principles and practices that are the guidelines for membership in our monthly meeting but our direct experience and guidance of the Spirit that brings us into relationship with one another. We have been experiencing rapid growth in the meeting for the past decade and much of this growth feels good and healthy. One Friend mentioned feeling very welcomed when she first came. Now, two years later, she would like more guidance on how to become involved at a deeper level. We are challenged to explore how we maintain a welcoming and open space for others as we grow in size and particularly with the welcome addition of young adult Friends.

Concerning our youth, we feel that we have a full and vibrant youth ministries group. One young adult Friend would like to encourage other young adults to participate in the richness of DFM's committees and business meetings. A Friend spoke about having a welcoming space in our hearts for those that are lonely. We seek community in the Spirit to fulfill our loneliness. As one grows spiritually, we can be challenged by having the Spirit fill our own personal loneliness.

We are encouraged by new areas of growth of visitation in our meeting, such as the Friendly Food program, which reaches out to families that have had a loved one murdered in Durham and helping those in the wider community come out of isolation. In the coming year we will continue to ask ourselves how we may reach out and welcome those within and beyond our community.

Fayetteville: We do welcome newcomers and non-members to our meetings. We encourage them to participate in meeting activities. We do not have any younger members. We support each other, and our caring extends beyond ourselves.

Friendship: The meeting as a whole endeavors to welcome newcomers and visitors with a guest book, introductions at the rise of meeting, and greeting visitors personally. We encourage newcomers to attend our forums and retreats and welcome participation in the work of the meeting. We take delight that on the fifth First Day in a month our young children are in charge of our meeting for worship. The children stay throughout worship, break meeting and make announcements. We take note of their leadership by speaking to them personally. We are particularly aware of the need to visit and care for each other. This year there have been a number of our families with health and financial needs. Both individually and corporately the meeting has responded to their needs. Financial assistance has been given through meeting funds. Individuals have given hours of personal attention to meet health care and shopping needs and spiritual guidance and fellowship. Others are aware of additional personal needs and are able to respond as the way opens. When particular needs arise for members who live at Friends Homes retirement community they are assisted by other members who live at Friends Homes. We seek to respond to needs outside our community when informed of special situations and have the resources to do so. Our Care and Counsel committee has worked diligently this year to be in touch with absent members. At the Christmas season a letter was sent to absent members expressing our interest in their wellbeing and giving them news of our activities. Our Care and Counsel committee continues to be mindful of both our nearby members and those who are no longer near us.

Greenville: We feel clear that we are welcoming to newcomers and encourage members to take on new roles and responsibilities as led. We feel we could be better in visiting each other's homes during the week. Our sense of care for others does extend to people outside of meeting.

Rich Square: We aspire to welcome newcomers and non-members. Often it is difficult to discern what amount of attention is too little or too much for specific individuals. We want to be welcoming and inclusive for everyone. As only five members live within thirty miles of the meeting, our "visits" with one another most often are by email, telephone and postal mail. Local members do have outreach to the larger community by involvements with civic organizations and on the person-to-person level. Examples of these are delivering Meals on Wheels to neighborhood shut-ins, and working with our Community Children's Garden.

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Virginia Beach: Weighty members have set a welcoming example, remembering names, making calls, updating us all on the status of those who have been ill. We have been carrying these examples forward and are resolved to continue.

West Grove: Visitors and non-members are welcomed upon arrival. It is difficult to say that we visit Friends and non-members regularly. Electronic communication is our primary form of visitation. We have not invited a visitor or non-member to consider membership as there are few visitors or non-members to attend meeting. There are two committees of meeting which our young Friends participate with as circumstances permit.

Wilmington: We have a practice of introductions at the close of meeting for worship in order to welcome newcomers and non-members. We also frequently introduce ourselves personally to those faces we do not recognize. They are encouraged to share and participate regularly. Our newest member felt included from the beginning of her attendance. Younger members serve on committees and are often given responsibilities within the meeting. Everyone is encouraged to share regardless of age or length of attendance. As a meeting, we remember those who may be going through tough times and will contact using various methods like phone calls, emails, and cards. Visiting others beyond meeting is an area in which we feel we could improve. The suggestion of hosting a quarterly potluck dinner has been posed. We are interested in pursuing this option.

41. Documents Committee Report

Susan Lees presented on behalf of the Documents Committee.

We received Epistles from eight global yearly meetings, eleven national yearly meetings, and two national organizations. Group sizes ranged from about forty to six hundred; from one state/five locations (Alaska) to twelve states and sixty plus monthly meetings; two arrived in Spanish as well as English.

Other demographics:

1. Monteverde is the only epistle our yearly meeting has received for three consecutive years.
2. InterMountain Yearly Meeting is the only yearly meeting that's a member of the Fellowship of Quaker in the Arts.
3. Friends Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC) is the ONLY epistle that included ALL branches of Friends
4. We received two epistles in Spanish as well as English (Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting Association (SAYMA) and Intermountain Yearly Meeting).
5. Five states have all four Quaker branches (Unprogrammed, Conservative, Pastoral, Evangelical): Illinois, Ohio, North Carolina, Virginia, and Wisconsin (per map from 2002 on Friends General Conference's website).
6. We received epistles from FOUR yearly meeting youth groups (Baltimore, Intermountain, Ohio Valley, and Southeastern); those were given to the youth coordinators.

There were some familiar topics:

1. New England's greeting is "to All Friends Everywhere"
 - a. Others say "to Friends Everywhere" or "to Friends Worldwide"
 - b. New England wanted to make sure **everybody** was included
2. Several yearly meetings are working on revising their Discipline
 - a. Baltimore is twelve years into a discipline revision, and a new committee has been appointed

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- b. Northern Yearly Meeting revised the equality chapter of their Faith and Practice
 - c. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting worked on the peace section of their Faith and Practice
 - d. Southeastern Yearly Meeting just published their fourth edition of the Faith and Practice
3. Bhopal just finished building their meetinghouse; Monteverde just finished a new preschool building and a new meetinghouse in 2012-2013.
 4. Ohio Valley is concerned about the graying of their group. They have a solid group of young adults and younger groups which are being nurtured and are growing.
 5. Two yearly meetings are working on living in right relations with indigenous peoples (New York and Intermountain)

She concluded by presenting a creative collection of passages from epistles by other yearly meetings and organizations to provide a concise sense of the documents received.

42. Minute of Thanks to the Planning Committee

Appreciation was expressed for the rich program and opportunities provided through the efforts of the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee this year.

43. Youth Epistle

The youth epistle describing our young people's activities during yearly meeting sessions was read. Friends approved including the epistle in these minutes and sending it along with our epistles to Friends everywhere.

We, the youth of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) are pleased to share with you a summary of our experience throughout these past five days – the Yearly Meeting. Fourth Day was supposed to begin for us in the afternoon, with board games. However, the majority of the youth arrived late, and other youth arrived on later days. Yet, this did not stop us from enjoying even the first moments of the meeting. That evening, we went bowling. We split up into two groups, one to play with bumpers, and one to play without. The adults accompanied us on the trip. Each of us thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, and wished it could have lasted longer. That night we gathered together for snacks. The schedule said that snacks would be by West Grove and Rich Square, which we interpreted, literally, to be a place on campus. This resulted in a widespread confusion amongst the youth to find West Grove and Rich Square. It was not until later that we realized that West Grove and Rich Square were the names of the meetings providing the snacks.

On the Fifth Day, the youth went on a field trip to Wings of Dawn Farm, which is owned by Charlie and Janice Ansell. There, we were given a tour of the farm, and also helped with pulling weeds, as well as planting beans. We also collected compost. Miriam enjoyed pushing the lime wheelbarrow; the lime line helped us know where to plant the seeds. Towards the end of the visit, we took a tour of Charlie and Janice's solar house, which greatly interested the older youth. Younger youth enjoyed visiting one of the farm's many chicken coops. The joyful experience the youth had at the farm was highlighted by Charlie, who told us his motivation for starting the farm. He said God had spoken to him, telling him, "Feed my sheep." That night, we played an intergenerational game that is called "Point," during which the group became familiar with each other as they imitated the appearances of animals, bringing the group together through laughter and silliness.

The following day, Sixth Day, the youth began work on a video project, short skits based on two Bible stories: the Canaanite woman, and Jesus helps cure an evil, possessed man. Making the props – such as the pipe-cleaner pig snouts – was the most enjoyable part of the process. Writing scripts, casting characters, and videotaping the skits consumed most of the day. During the evening session, one of the youth, Caleb, introduced to the gathered Friends a game called

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“Sneak Circle”, which involved a circle of people attempting to sneak up on a blindfolded player in the middle. This concluded the day. On Seventh Day, we took a fieldtrip to Mendenhall Plantation, at which we were given a tour of an 18th-century house and its accompanying barns. The youth especially enjoyed learning about the house and the Mendenhall family’s involvement in the Underground Railroad, as well as seeing an authenticated, false-bottom wagon that transported slaves along the Underground Railroad.

Afterwards, the youth visited the large swimming pool adjacent to the Mendenhall Plantation. There, the youth enjoyed playing a variety of games in the water, including Marco Polo and Jackpot, in which a ball is thrown into a crowd of players and points are awarded to those who catch the ball. Later that evening, the children and the adults played a game that the youth called “Grannie Aunt”, because they had forgotten what the *actual* name was. Following the game, we had the great joy of participating in a program led by Elizabeth Wintermute. The program involved all generations, and the activities of the program interested everyone. The topic discussed – the gifts and talents of all people – connected with each individual, making the program a memorable experience for both the youth and the adults. The youth especially enjoyed playing with the clay, and crafting a ‘physical response’ to the messages they received during the program. A couple of them even made beards out of the clay, wearing them proudly for the remainder of the evening. Following these events, an ice cream social was held by Davidson Meeting. The youth – and *many* of the adults – voiced immense satisfaction with the Nutty Buddies (the ice cream).

That night, huge progress was made on the Bible story videos, and the final touches were put on the project. It was an immense task, but the process was enjoyable, and the outcome was satisfactory. On First Day, the youth and a few adults gathered and had a rich discussion regarding the use of electronics during the yearly meeting, and possible future electronic policies. The youth and some parents met to discuss the challenging issue of how to balance the individual use of electronics with the goals of building community.

Before we end, we, the youth would like to thank the adults for all that they have done to include us and make our experience enjoyable and memorable. We also thank them for their patience, kindness, and guidance. Largely because of them, we will return home with memories sufficient and abundant enough to tide us over until we gather yet again. This concludes the summary of the majority of our experience.

44. Summary of Exercises

The Summary of Exercises was read and, with minor amendments, approved for inclusion in the minutes and distribution to absent Friends. Appreciation was expressed for the committees’ work drafting the summary.

The 317th annual gathering of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) met from Seventh Month 9th through 13th, 2014, at Guilford College, where cicadas drone and air-handlers rumble; the crepe myrtles bloom pink and white, and cottontails bob across the neatly mowed lawns. Strolling on the campus, we fondly remembered recently deceased Friends Elizabeth “Lib” Parker and Louise B. Wilson, who so dearly loved this campus.

On Fourth Day afternoon, we began with worship under the care of Yearly Meeting Ministry and Oversight. After dinner, Friends gathered for the meeting of Ministry and Oversight, where the clerk of that body reported that she had traveled more than 3,000 miles visiting all nine constituent monthly meetings. These visits have strengthened bonds of love among Friends and are helping the clerk to gain a better overview of how Friends carry out the work of ministry and oversight across the monthly meetings. Friends expressed their gratitude for these visits and a desire to see this work continue, as Friends seek to redefine the role of Yearly Meeting Ministry and Oversight.

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This year's Bible study focused on *lectio divina*. Susan Wilson (Rich Square) guided Friends into this practice by talking about the journey of transformation, when the false self we have constructed encounters a suffering we cannot avoid and cannot fix. When we are shaken to the core, God reveals to us our true self, the face we had before we were born. Susan showed Friends how we can reach into our true self using the technique of *lectio divina*. Focusing on short passages from the Bible, we practiced the steps of *lectio divina*: reading, reflection, prayer, contemplation.

We moved gently through our business, listening carefully, respectfully, and lovingly to issues, some of which could have been contentious. One such issue was the approval of the first section brought forward by the Discipline Revision Committee. Friends accepted the proposed text with minor revisions. A second such issue was the approval of a proposed budget, which while diverging from recent practices in some ways, reflected the current needs and priorities of the yearly meeting and the constituent monthly meetings. Recognizing an opportunity to enrich our youth programming, Friends were immediately comfortable moving forward with a joint endeavor with Piedmont Friends Fellowship to discern how we could work together to develop larger and more frequent youth activities.

The evening programs reflected this year's theme, "Cultivating Spiritual Depth among Conservative Friends." On Fifth Day evening, we heard three presentations on what it means to be a Conservative Friend in North Carolina. Lloyd Lee Wilson (West Grove) traced the history of North Carolina Yearly Meeting, which has historically tended to be open and accepting of theological diversity while stressing unity in the Spirit. Carole Treadway (Friendship) shared her story of growing up in Ohio, but returning as an adult to North Carolina, where her family's Quaker roots lie, and finding herself immediately welcomed. Rachel Miller (Greenville) spoke of how North Carolina Yearly Meeting Friends already took her seriously when she was a child and how this has helped to ground her as a Conservative Friend, even after ten years of living away. After these presentations, numerous Friends shared their stories of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) as a loving, nurturing spiritual family.

On Sixth Day evening, Friend Elizabeth "Liz" Gates (Lancaster Friends Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting) spoke on "Cultivating Spiritual Depth in Daily Life." She encouraged Friends to adopt a daily spiritual practice, while reminding Friends that the purpose for this is to be still with God. Elizabeth spoke lovingly of her twice daily walks with her now geriatric dog, her gentle companion as she appreciates the beauty of nature and draws closer to God. Citing the insight "How you live your life is your spiritual practice," Liz shared some deeply personal events that resulted in surrender to God's will and spiritual deepening based in transcendent, divine love. At the conclusion of her moving talk, Liz taught us a song based on Psalm 46, which we sang as a round. (In fact, it was striking how often at this year's sessions the Holy Spirit moved individual Friends and the gathered body to song. This occurred within and surrounding meeting for worship and meeting for business, and it was often unexpected. We wonder whether this might have been an outward expression of the sense of tenderness and unity that covered our time together.)

This year's attenders included nineteen youth, sixty-five adult NCYM-C Friends, and twenty visitors. There was a rich program for youth during the day, including an afternoon swim and an excursion to Wings of Dawn Farm, hosted by Charlie and Jan Ansell of West Grove Meeting, and to Mendenhall Plantation, an historic Quaker site in nearby Jamestown, NC. Young Friends also produced a biblically based video which they shared on First Day morning. We had opportunities for multi-generational play before the evening programs, with people of all ages experiencing fun and laughter together. This culminated in the Seventh Day evening program, where Elizabeth Wintermute (Durham) led a multi-generational Faith and Play™ session, drawing out from both children and adults observations about the importance of recognizing and sharing gifts in our meetings. Following this, Friends of all ages were invited to express themselves through art.

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Apart from meeting for business and evening programs, there were opportunities to discuss the discipline revision process, to learn about the Friends Emergency Materials Assistance Program, and to write letters to the Southern State Worship Group. Ian Grace (Winston-Salem) told us about his recent service project in Guanajuato, Mexico and gave us a tour of the town with colorful slides. Oliver Child-Lanning showed the book he prepared for his high school senior project: *I-O*, a graphic-novel style guide for young people who wish to declare their commitment to non-violence while registering for the US Selective Service. Kenyan Friend Sammy Letoole spoke about the educational efforts of Friends United Meeting in rural Kenya, showing slides and discussing gender-based inequality in the tribes he works with. Chuck Fager (Durham) gave a presentation on his recent research that resulted in two volumes on the Progressive Friends Movement of the Nineteenth Century.

We are grateful to Friendship Meeting for their work in preparing for our annual sessions and their prompt response to our needs as the sessions progressed. We look forward to next year's sessions, to be held Seventh Month 15th through 19th, 2015, at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

45. Concluding Minute

We adjourn our yearly meeting sessions purposing to meet Seventh Month 16 through 19, 2015 at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in Wilmington, North Carolina, if consistent with Divine will. The Interim Body is scheduled to meet on the 25th of Tenth Month and on the 25th of Fourth Month. Interim Body in Tenth Month is tentatively scheduled to be at Durham Meeting and Fourth Month in Greenville.

Appendix

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Minutes of Meeting of Ministry and Oversight

At the North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) meeting of Ministry and Oversight held at Guilford College in Greensboro, North Carolina on Seventh month 9, 2014, Friends gathered in silent, expectant, waiting worship.

The clerk read from the Gospel of Luke 24:50-53: "Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God."

As the clerk welcomed Friends present, attendance sheets were circulated. Seven monthly meetings were represented with the following visitors:

Liz Gates of Lancaster Meeting in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

David Eley of Keystone Fellowship Monthly Meeting in Ohio Yearly Meeting

Rex Sprouse of Fall Creek Monthly Meeting in Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting and Friends General Conference visitor

Mark Wutka of Nashville Friends Meeting in Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association

Mary Linda McKinney of Nashville Friends Meeting in Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association

The clerk requested Barbara C. Gosney to serve as recording clerk for this meeting, which was approved.

Friends heard the following reports from constituent meetings' committees or Monthly Meetings of Ministry and Oversight.

Davidson

We have read and considered the yearly meeting Queries for Ministry and Oversight and have submitted responses to all Queries. We have also read the Advices for our committee. Our meeting's representatives to NCYM-C Ministry and Oversight are Kristin Olson-Kennedy and Patty Levering. Our representatives at this yearly meeting session will be Kristin and Patty, and others who are able to attend.

For many years we have supported through spiritual care committees the public ministry exercised by members of the meeting, encouraging them and holding them accountable. As a committee we have attempted to model deep worship in our committee meetings and in meeting for worship with attention to business.

Patty Levering, Clerk

Durham

During the past year, Durham Friends have experienced the following:

- One marriage under the care of Meeting (Emily Stewart & Ryan Nilson)
- One death (Eileen Schlosnagle)
- Two new memberships (Christine Houghton, Nate Houghton).
- Three transfers of membership (Judy Magee, Bill Velto, Paula Erlich)
- Three clearness committees for personal issues

We also maintain four ongoing Support & Accountability committees for Friends engaged in ministries outside of meeting (Andrew Wright, Deborah Wallace, Toby Berla, Scott Holmes). We are now gathering a committee for Margaret March.

On her visit, clerk of M&O offered the following query to Durham Friends: *How is each monthly meeting with the concept of recording ministers and elders? Does your meeting use the recording process to nurture the person's gift?*

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While we provide support and accountability for specific ministries, and try to accommodate those who need credentials, Durham Meeting does not record ministers. Several Friends feel strongly that recording has meaning only when written on the spirit of the body, paper not needed. We try to maintain in our meeting an openness to the ministries of all, and support discernment about ministries. Our vocal ministry is rich; we feel that any moment someone may minister and we receive with great joy these ministries.

Kent Wicker,
Clerk of Durham Ministry & Counsel

Fayetteville

Ministry and Oversight committee needs:

3) I looked back at last year's minutes and I was named as the Monthly Meeting Representative last year. Last year Susan also attended. Something else to consider is for Darlene to be our representative if she is interested as she has expressed some interest in this area.

1) As for giving an annual report from Fayetteville, I would suggest we report that we discussed what to do with Ministry and Oversight in our meeting and agreed to take a First Day each month to read and a Ministry and Oversight query and discuss it.

2) I think we need to state we failed to read and answer any of the Ministry and Oversight queries this year.

Bob Cooper on behalf of Fayetteville

Friendship

As I sit down to reflect on our past committee year what has come to mind is, "do we continue as a committee to put our trust in God and the leadings of the Spirit?" As a committee we strive to conduct our business, as well as, spend a time of worship holding our corporate body in the Light and in prayer allowing an opening to continuing guidance and strength. As our meeting community has experienced joys and sorrows, we are mindful to hold each other up and offer support as we can through the transitions and changes our members have experienced over the past year.

Our committee sponsored the annual Christmas Eve worship service at Friends Homes in Twelfth month, 2012. Residents and meeting members continue to find fellowship and joy in this worship time.

In Third Month the All Meeting Retreat was held on "Discerning our future space, what is our Vision for a Renovated or new Meetinghouse?" It was well attended and a fruitful endeavor which has moved our community forward in plans to enlarge our space.

We sponsored four Quakerism 101 forums First Month thru Fourth Month. The topics were: Clearness Committees, presenter, Deborah Shaw; Quaker Leadership Scholars Program, presenter Evelyn Jadan; Biblical Basis of Quaker Testimonies, presenter, Jim Rouse; Quest Quest, presenter, Deborah Seuss. Often the forums are not well attended, however, we strive to offer topics of interest to newcomers and all members for opportunities to learn and grow in our spiritual walk and understandings of Quakerism.

We continue to be mindful of members who are unable to attend regular meeting for worship at the meetinghouse due to illness or physical limitations or relocations. We have asked varies members to gather for worship with members who are in nursing facilities and on a regular basis remind members that we have a mid-week meeting that meets regularly at Friends Homes at Guilford. Regular attenders remind us of their desire to stay connected to the larger meeting members and encourage and welcome our attendance.

The current members of the committee are; Carole Treadway, Deborah Shaw, Neil Swenson, Ann Rouse, Darlene Stanley.

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Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Stanley, Clerk

Greenville

Bruce Arnold, Mary Miller and Richard Miller are appointed representatives. JoAnne Holden sends her love and affection and regrets that she is unable to attend.

The Advices were not read as the Elders and Ministers meet informally most of the time.

Bruce Arnold was recorded as Minister. Guy Burgess was welcomed to membership.

We have had no births or deaths this year.

Greenville did not answer the Queries this year. With JoAnne Holden being unwell most of the winter and spring, corporate answers were not prepared.

Our meeting continues to gather faithfully for worship. We are enjoying the discussions surrounding the revisions of the Discipline, and learning more about ourselves in the process. We welcomed Kristin Olson-Kennedy and had a fruitful discussion with her Seventh day evening followed by meeting for worship the following day.

Rich Square

Representatives named to represent us at the Seventh Month, 2014 Meeting of Ministry and Oversight of Yearly Meeting are the following: Edward Pearce, Barbara Gosney, and Robert Gosney

We have not been very active as a Meeting of Ministry and Oversight during the period since our last yearly meeting, having met as a body only twice during that time, and not having answered the “Queries for Meeting of Ministry and Oversight” nor heard as a body the “Advices to Meeting of Ministry and Oversight.” During the two meetings we had, much of our attention was focused on how we might nurture our meeting community in coming together as a community and engaging more actively with the faith and practice of Friends. We have continued to consider our responsibilities for meeting for worship and reviewed the manner in which meetings are usually concluded with announcements and concerns. Although we did not change our manner of concluding meeting for worship, we did renew our sense of the importance of the meeting being led by the Spirit.

Elizabeth G. Parker, who has served as an elder since 1986, died on the 11th of Sixth Month 2014. There have been no other changes in those appointed or named as ministers, elders, or overseers in our Meeting of Ministry and Oversight.

On behalf of the Meeting of Ministry and Oversight,
Robert Gosney, Clerk

Virginia Beach

Virginia Beach Friends Meeting Ministers, Elders, and Overseers reports that the Advices were read in the face of the Meeting.

Queries for MEO were read and responded to.

Ministers for VBFM are: Louise Wilson and Paula Justice. Please note that Louise Wilson’s health is in grave condition.

Elders are: Nancy Craft, Patricia Phelan-Young, and Andrew Young.

VBFM representatives will be those members from VBFM who will attend 2014 North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative).

VBFM hosted the Friends World Committee for Consultation Wider Quaker Fellowship Committee the weekend of February 8-9, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

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Nancy Nixon, MEO-Clerk
Rebecca Mani, Recording Clerk

West Grove

Ministry and Oversight – Dixie Newlin, Charles Newlin, Laurie Newlin, Janis Ansell, Charles Ansell, Les Fleming, Lloyd Lee Wilson

Ministry and Oversight united in meeting quarterly this year. Eric Ginsburg, after long and faithful service, stepped down as clerk of and member of M & O. His spiritual presence has been missed. No one has been called to clerk M&O.

The Advices were read in the face of meeting. The queries were not answered and reflections of M&O meetings were not recorded.

Charles Ansell
Clerk, West Grove Friends Meeting

Wilmington

Wilmington Friends Ministry and Worship read the Advices and answered three of the Queries this year. Our representative to Yearly Meeting for Ministry and Oversight is Cheryl Fetterman although she will not be able to attend the Wednesday evening meeting due to work obligations.

In Wilmington we have had a calm year with no particular issues requiring Ministry and Worship's attention. We have met several times and have noted that as our meeting continues to renew itself with new attenders that there is healthy and encouraging involvement with little need for extra guidance. During the summer months members of Ministry and Worship are preparing discussion-hour topics on Quaker process. So far, topics include consensus, authority in Quaker meetings, gifts and leadings, and there are several open days not yet planned as of the writing of this report.

Cheryl Fetterman, Clerk

Representatives read their meeting's responses to Queries 1, 5, and 6 from Queries for Meetings of Ministry and Oversight. We were reminded to consider Queries during the coming year and to ask in our meetings whether the Queries are the "right" questions for our meetings at this time.

The clerk reported that she has visited all of the constituent meetings within this yearly meeting, having travelled 3,128 miles. She listened to responses from Friends in each meeting to her queries: "How is each monthly meeting with the concept of recording ministers and elders? Does your monthly meeting use the recording process to nurture the person's gift?" She sees from her visits with all the meetings that there is the common deep desire to be one with the Spirit even though we come at this in different ways. Many people fear hierarchy and also that this means accountability and support to people with gifts. How do we live our testimonies of equality and community? Equality is not simple and easy. How do we honestly set accountability for ourselves and others? All comes from deep longing, deep love and spirituality to lead us to listen. She asked "Do we want to carry this conversation into the future in some fashion?"

We do not want differing views of recording within our meetings to stop the forward motion of clarifying and carrying out the sense of the work of Ministry and Oversight, nor recognizing and supporting spiritual gifts of members. We are mindful of "Way opening", and "Way closing" as well as a "Way of slowing down". There is motion, but it is slower than expected.

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Richard Miller reported for the Committee on Purpose and Function of Ministry and Oversight. He observed that setting aside labels as to how our different monthly meetings function, what are the real human needs that are, or are not, being met? We all have that concern. The meeting approved this committee continuing their work.

The report from the Committee on Response to Yearly Meeting Membership Inquiries was given by Robert Gosney. The committee consists of Robert Gosney, Marguerite Dingman and Ray Treadway. The report was approved to be given at yearly meeting. [See “Response to Yearly Meeting Membership Inquiries” report on page 74 of 2014 yearly meeting minutes.]

Bruce Arnold brought a request, approved by Greenville Monthly Meeting, for the Yearly Meeting of Ministry and Oversight to sponsor a retreat for ways to support the work of vocal ministry in monthly meetings. The proposal is to hold a retreat for those who are active in vocal ministry and to encourage seasoned ministers as well as fledglings. The retreat would consist of opening worship followed by queries. It would last one day in a central location. This body would like more discernment about how the retreat would take participants beyond their own monthly meetings. Friends are encouraged to take the question to their monthly meetings and return to the question at fall representative (interim) body.

Richard Miller will convene a group to hold a conversation concerning small meetings in our yearly meeting.

The meeting closed after a time of prayerful worship purposing to meet again on the Fourth Day evening preceding yearly meeting 2015.

Kristin Olson-Kennedy, Clerk
Barbara C. Gosney, Recording Clerk for this meeting