

**Minutes of the Interim Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting  
(Conservative)  
Fourth Month 23rd, 2016**

The Interim Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) convened at Durham Meeting in Durham, North Carolina on the 23rd of Fourth Month, 2016. The meeting gathered following worship and fellowship over lunch. Gratitude was expressed to those who prepared our midday meal and to Durham Meeting for hosting us today. Out of the worship, the clerk read Matthew, 11:28 – 30.

*Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

*Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

*For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

No visitors, but a good number of yearly meeting representatives, were present. Interim Body Minutes of Tenth Month were read.

Following the Interim Body Meeting in Tenth Month, the Nominating Committee forwarded for consideration the name of Greenville Meeting member Elizabeth Rolfe to be our representative to the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Peru gathering. The Travel Support Committee has made a recommendation that involves transferring budget amounts from General Travel to FWCC to cover more of Kristin Olson Kennedy and Elizabeth's total expenses. The FWCC travel funds have been depleted. The amount of the Travel Support Committee's recommendation is \$1,200. These actions were approved by e-mail.

The question was raised about how best to handle issues arising between our scheduled meetings. It was recognized that it works best to have all business conducted during our face-to-face meetings but this is not always possible. Friends are advised to consider what choices might be acceptable. Are we able to practice discernment via e-mail or other tools to connect virtually? What guidance do we have for our clerk and for one another to be present if needed between our sessions?

Gwen Gosney Erickson provided an update on the work of the Minutes Committee. The full committee has not met since Tenth Month. Meetings are reminded to respond to e-mails that will be sent to them in Fifth Month in preparation for our yearly meeting sessions. The directories and minute books will continue to be produced both in paper and electronically. However, the number of minute books will be further reduced based upon distribution of the 2015 booklet.

Margie Dingman read the Third Quarter Treasurer's Report as submitted by Lloyd Lee Wilson:

*Income is on track at this point in the fiscal year. Durham and Virginia Beach have not yet made their full budgeted donations to the yearly meeting.*

*Expenses are within budgeted amounts except for FWCC travel. At the recommendation of the Travel Support Committee and with the approval of the Interim Body, \$4,400 was spent supporting the travel expense of our two representatives to the First Month FWCC meeting in Peru. Our budget for this year was \$2,000. The \$4,400 actual expense was drawn from this year's budgeted amount for FWCC travel, \$1,200 held in the FWCC Travel Expense restricted fund, and \$400 from this year's budgeted amount for General Travel.*

*I continue to look forward to laying down the responsibilities as yearly meeting treasurer at this summer's annual sessions. I'll bring both paper and electronic documentation to the sessions for transfer to the new treasurer. For those interested, the yearly meeting accounts are presently maintained in Quickbooks Pro 2014.*

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Anne Olsen reported that Nominating Committee met. They brought forward the names of three members for the Financial Review Committee: Cheryl Fetterman, Dora Owen (convener), and David Perry. The Nominating Committee continues to work to find replacements for the Assistant Clerk and Treasurer positions and hope to have names to present at the upcoming yearly meeting sessions. Other positions to be filled are yearly meeting planning and hospitality committees for 2017 and several other opportunities for service, especially as representatives to outside organizations. Friends interested in learning more or in offering their services are encouraged to contact members of the Nominating Committee. Friends accepted the report and approved the proposed Financial Review Committee members.

Barbara Gosney provided an update on yearly meeting planning. Patty Levering of Davidson Meeting will be leading the Bible Study, "Receiving the Word." The Program Committee asked the Interim Body to consider the following proposal:

*Our custom is not to offer money to yearly meeting members except in response to need. Therefore, yearly meeting members serving as program presenters will be offered travel, room, and board based on need. A token honorarium is offered to non-members invite to present (i.e. \$200), room and board costs and funds to assist with travel. Speakers may choose to accept or decline the financial offering given to non-members.*

The proposal was approved with appreciation for clarifying what has been our past practice and for offering guidelines for future program committees to consider as they do their work. It is noted that that the exact budget amounts for honorarium and travel needs will vary over time and depending upon the speaker but recognize that this proposal gives the Program Committee some guidance as they discern appropriate amounts in the future.

Ray Treadway shared a report on the upcoming yearly meeting session's costs. Individual meal costs are forthcoming from Guilford College and the deadline set by the college for residential registrations is still needed.

*Guilford College has sent to NCYM-C a “Ledger” of costs for the summer 2016 annual meeting. The Hospitality Committee has contacted the Treasurer, the Planning Committee, and the Youth Committee for estimated costs. We have prepared a table, subject to modification, comparing actual costs for the 2014 sessions at Guilford College with the estimated costs for 2016.*

*While adult registrations increased at Guilford College from 2012 to 2014, it is not certain the enrollment will continue to increase for 2016. If we have the same number of adult registrations as in 2014 (74) we would need to charge a registration fee of \$49 to cover costs. Is this amount too high? If we reduced the registration fee to \$45, might we be able to get more adults to attend? Under what circumstances might the yearly meeting agree to absorb some of these costs from the Yearly Meeting Sessions Reserve?*

The Hospitality Committee has the authority to set the registration fee but requests feedback from the body regarding fee increases and costs. Friends encouraged seeking ways to make young adults aware of the financial assistance available to assist them in attending sessions. The Hospitality Committee will set registration to meet costs while also making it clear on forms that all are welcome regardless of their ability to pay. The report was accepted with gratitude.

Andrew Wright presented a report on behalf of the Discipline Revision Committee. The past year has been a very productive time for the Discipline Revision process, and they thank all those Friends and meetings who have continued to be solidly engaged and supportive of this work. The committee has produced five sections of text for consideration at yearly meeting sessions this summer. All of these sections are posted on the yearly meeting web site. In order to accomplish all this during yearly meeting time, the committee requests that the Program Planning Committee schedule two discussion group times for Friends to review the material to be presented to yearly meeting, one on Fifth Day and one on Sixth Day. They also ask the yearly meeting clerk to add consideration of the two items up for second approval to the business meeting agenda for Sixth Day, and consideration of the three items up for first approval on Seventh Day. Some Friends have inquired about a Table of Contents for the new *Discipline*. The plan at present is to build up a Table of Contents as part of the *Interim Discipline*, as individual sections receive second approval from the yearly meeting and are added to the *Interim Discipline*. The report was accepted.

A concern was raised about the relationship between the monthly meetings and the Discipline Revision Committee. The committee was intentionally established without requiring representation from all monthly meetings. Liaisons were identified for each monthly meeting. Some meetings have closer relationships with the committee than others. Is there a need in the process to increase face-to-face opportunities with meetings who do not have established relationships with individuals on the committee? Are there other ways to facilitate connection and trust between our meetings and the individuals

within them who are not able to be as directly involved on the yearly meeting level? Further discernment is needed by the yearly meeting to enrich this process.

Kent Wicker announced availability of the yearly meeting's journal issue #7 that shares how we have dealt with differences amongst us. 250 print copies are available for distribution and the journal will also appear online soon. Donations (suggested \$3) are requested but not required to cover costs.

Kristin Olson Kennedy and Elizabeth Rolfe presented a preliminary heartfelt report from their experiences at the 2016 FWCC plenary in Peru in First Month. Elizabeth shared an overview of the work of FWCC in their work with the wider world of Friends. The gathering was notable for the participation of ninety young adult friends and with representatives from thirty-seven countries. Elizabeth movingly shared how the opportunity to connect with young friends led to her now clerking the Young Adult Friends Committee for Nurturing and Connection. The friendships made are nurturing her spiritual journey and those of other young Friends internationally to make the world a better place. As a result of these connections, she plans to travel to Kenya and New Zealand in the coming year to meet with Friends there and further nurture these relationships. She will also be serving as high school staff for the Friends General Conference gathering in Seventh Month. Appreciation was expressed for the gifts Elizabeth's service as a representative brought, both to NCYM-C and to the wider world of Friends. These seemingly individual experiences have a ripple effect by sharing the faith and practice of our yearly meeting. Kristin noted ways that the opportunities through FWCC can be brought back to our work locally.

Toby Berla attended American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Corporation meeting for the first time in Third Month as a yearly meeting representative. He expressed gratitude for this opportunity to more closely observe the work and structure of the AFSC. One issue raised by a Friend in attendance was the lack of AFSC programming in rural areas as much of their programming is centered in urban areas. Ruth Anne Childres also attended the corporation meeting as a returning representative. A fuller report will be presented at annual sessions in Seventh Month.

The clerk reminded Friends that a request will be made at the upcoming yearly meeting sessions for meetings to host the Tenth Month and Fourth Month interim body meetings. Following announcements and a brief period of worship, the meeting closed.

Nancy Craft, Clerk and Gwen Gosney Erickson, Recording Clerk