

Minutes of the Interim Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative)  
Fourth Month 22, 2017

The Interim Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) convened at Durham Meeting in Durham, North Carolina on 22<sup>nd</sup> of Fourth Month, 2017. The meeting gathered following worship and lunch. After a period of gathering silence, the clerk read from Romans 8:24-27:

*For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Likewise the Spirit also helpeth out infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

No visitors were present and it was noted that several Friends had sent regrets with their reports to the meeting. Clerk Nancy Craft read the Tenth Month Interim Body Meeting Minutes.

In response to the tasks assigned in Tenth Month on behalf of the Finance Committee, Robert Gosney reported that he consulted with the Treasurer of Durham Friends regarding the process they use to handle financial matters through shared collaboration between an appointed treasurer and a hired bookkeeper. He observed that the yearly meeting's financial matters are not as complex as the monthly meeting's so the addition of a bookkeeper would likely complicate rather than simplify the work of the treasurer. He suggested that the job of treasurer could more effectively be made easier by (1) being intentional as a yearly meeting to define what is needed and steps for the treasurer to take when decisions involving finances are made and (2) defining clear expectations regarding the level of accounting and tasks required.

Clerk Nancy Craft stressed the need for a treasurer to be located soon as needed for our yearly meeting to continue good stewardship of our resources. She reported on the financial matters she handled in the interim since First Quarter.

*Report of Income and Expenses 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2016-2017*

*Income: \$1,500*

*Expenses: \$1502.10*

*Second quarter expenses consisted of the cost of printing the 2016 Minute Books (\$520.98), and travel funds for our representative to attend the FCNL Meeting (\$409.92). In addition, the FWCC requested the funds we had been holding for use of Jamaican Friends. The total amount (\$571.20) was forwarded at their request, thereby eliminating this restricted fund.*

*Report of Income and Expenses 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2016-2017*

*Income: none*

*Expenses: \$2113.74*

*Expenses were \$1680.10 for two representatives to the FWCC-SOA Meeting. In addition, checks were written for the funds allocated during the 2016*

*yearly meeting sessions to the Bolivian Quaker Education and the Guilford College International Quaker Student Financial Assistance Fund. The \$750 to the Bolivian Quaker Education fund was approved with the intent this is the first of a four-year commitment. A check for the remaining Special Projects Fund (\$1,363.74) was forward as allocated to the Guilford College Financial Assistance Fund.*

*SO far in Fourth month we have received \$1,750 in contributions from the monthly meetings (Wilmington and Davidson).*

Friends were asked to consider what the required elements of treasurer are for our yearly meeting and how we then might fill those needs. The yearly meeting has no non-financial assets and is not incorporated so has very little paperwork beyond check writing and the reports to the yearly meeting. While the accounting is simple, the complicating factor for the treasurer has been determining what the intent of the meeting is -- or was in the cases of previously established funds -- for actions to be handled by the treasurer. The clerk will work closely with Finance Committee to clarify what is needed and to assist so the clerk is not the sole person responsible for financial matters in the interim.

Susan Lees is willing to take on the routine tasks of treasurer by writing checks and reporting on yearly meeting finances. However, she is not able to take on the interpretive elements the treasurer has been expected to handle as a duty in the past. Therefore, there is a need for an active Finance Committee to advise and assist the Treasurer. In order to have a functional group to serve in such as supportive capacity, a Finance Sub-Committee was identified from current members of Finance Committee: Robert Gosney, Bruce Arnold, and Ray Treadway. Susan Lees will convene the Finance Committee as Treasurer with expectation that the other members will support and assist in creation of budget and other matters that may arise beyond routine check writing and bookkeeping. Interim Body approves authorizing Susan Lees as Treasurer and for her to coordinate with Clerk Nancy Craft and the bank to be authorized to take on treasurer responsibilities as soon as convenient.

Nancy Craft presented the Nominating Committee report which recommended David Perry and Lynn Berla as the Financial Review Committee for the coming year. The report was approved. Friends were reminded to consider ways they might serve the yearly meeting as Nominating Committee members will be seeking to complete their annual report between now and yearly meeting sessions.

Darlene Stanley requested support from the yearly meeting for her participation in Broken Vessels Quaker Ministry, a ministry led by Deborah Fisch and Lloyd Lee Wilson which shares the roots of the Quaker tradition with a group of Friends from across the United States. Darlene has also requested funding from her monthly meeting and suggested \$600 as the portion of funding from Yearly Meeting for a one-time scholarship. These funds will be matched by the Broken Vessels program. Friends noted that we have funded others participating in similar ministry programs in the past and mutually benefited from it. Friends approved support in the amount of the suggested \$600 to come from the Internships/Scholarship Fund.

In response to the request in Tenth Month for meetings to consider the minute on racial justice drafted by Bruce Arnold, Barbara Gosney read a minute from Rich Square Monthly Meeting.

*In response to a concern from Interim Body regarding racial justice, Friends agreed to send the statement originally drafted by Bill and Brenda Remmes with several edits from the Monthly Meeting to Interim Body to be considered at their next meeting on Fourth Month 22. In addition, Friends felt that questions on the purpose of the statement and to whom it might be directed should be considered.*

*The statement originally drafted by Bill and Brenda Remmes and edited by the Meeting:*

*During our annual sessions of the North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), the concern of racial justice continues to haunt us. Our religious community has stood witness to the inhumane and degrading practice of racial discrimination for over two hundred years. We feel move to speak truth to power once again.*

*We find in our world today that people of color continue to be subjected to conditions of servitude, poverty, and social limitation even when they have been called free citizens of the United States. Examples are numerous: their unprecedented rate of incarceration, the inability to find safe communities to live in and adequately funded education programs for their own personal training and that of their children, a drug culture that has victimized many low-income communities with promises of money and protection and instead brought violence into their neighborhoods as an everyday occurrence. Racial profiling has generated fear and distrust to the point that our law enforcement professionals are no longer trusted to be fair, impartial and non-violent. Unfortunately statistics mirror their anxiety.*

*We call on people of all races to stand together to acknowledge this threat to our society. Standing together requires that those with the power, money and influence become constantly vigilant to discriminatory practices within their own homes, work places, community, and nation. Not only do we call on all people to become vigilant, we beseech everyone to step out of their comfort zones and admit that when another fellow human being is being treated with injustice of disrespect, those of us who do not step in and challenge the offenders or advocate for fairness within housing, education, job opportunities and social mobility are, ourselves, promoters of the current status.*

*Barbara Gosney, Clerk*

*Extract from Rich Square Monthly Meeting Minutes, 4th Month 9, 2017*

Though no other meetings presented minutes, several reported that consideration has been given and that racial justice is a continuing concern held both by individuals and by the meeting body through committee work. In addition to the racial justice concerns raised by the minute, several meetings are also engaging with justice concerns facing our immigrant communities and support for refugees. Local meetings are addressing racial justice concern at

local levels in a variety of ways determined by the opportunities and conditions within their communities. Monthly meetings are encouraged to share any minutes or statements made with the yearly meeting for sharing through the yearly meeting's online presence. Meetings are encouraged to share their work with one another to assist in bringing us together and to facilitate work towards discerning a yearly meeting statement on racial justice. This process may also inform our discipline revision process as we seek to publicly present who we are as a body.

Andrew Wright presented a report from the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee.

*The Planning Committee for the 2017 NCYM(C) includes the following Friends: Barbara Gosney, Bruce Arnold, Darlene Stanley, Elizabeth Wintermute, Patty Levering, and Toby Berla. We have also been joined for our meetings by Andrew Wright, representing the Youth Programming committee, and by Elizabeth Rolfe and Ian Grace, representing Young Adult Friends.*

*Since our last report to Interim Body in 10th Month, the committee has continued to meet by telephone conference call nearly every month. We have many enjoyed our times of gathered worship and discernment together; Spirit is guiding us in hearing the needs of the Yearly Meeting for its 2017 annual sessions.*

*We have several documents to share with Interim Body, with Friends responsible for hospitality, and with the various Monthly Meetings, at this time:*

- *The "2017 Yearly Meeting Invitation" is attached to this report. This document can be distributed to monthly meetings as a way of piquing Friends' interest in attending annual sessions at Wilmington this year.*
- *The draft "2017 Yearly Meeting Schedule", also attached to this report, lays out a detailed proposed schedule, based on our discernment and on information we have received from various Friends.*
- *The clerk of the Planning Committee asked Friends in monthly meetings to share their needs for time and space to hold Interest Groups at annual sessions. The current set of requests is also attached to this report. Note: there are likely to be additional requests lifted up in the months leading up to the annual sessions.*

*Friends on the Planning Committee wish to follow up with the Clerk of Yearly Meeting about whether it would be possible to publish a tentative agenda for each session of business. This would make it easier for Friends to have a better sense of which sessions they should attend, if they are not able to be at all of them. This is especially important to people who are involved in the programming for youth and young adults.*

*We are blessed to have this opportunity to worship and labor together in service to the Yearly Meeting.*

*Toby Berla, Clerk*

The proposed yearly meeting sessions theme is "Our Life is Love: Quaker Spiritual Journey." Marcelle Martin will be leading Bible Study and the Sixth Day evening program. Fifth Day program is a panel discussion on living life in love. Additional information will be

distributed to monthly meeting clerks. In recognition of the transitory nature of age, there are integrated activities planned for yearly meeting by our young adult Friends inclusive of all ages.

Cheryl Fetterman provided an update regarding hospitality plans for yearly meeting sessions. Registration form will be available on the yearly meeting web site shortly. Program schedule and information will also be posted on the website.

Nancy Craft provided information from her consultation with a sound system expert. He recommended that the yearly meeting rent and consider short term options rather than investing in a sound system at this time.

Appreciation to Durham Friends for providing food and fellowship as our Interim Body hosts for Fourth Month. The meeting closed with intentions to next meet in Tenth Month. Hosts are need for Tenth Month 2017 Fourth Month 2018.

Nancy Craft, Clerk

Gwen Gosney Erickson, Recording Clerk