

**Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends  
Minutes of the Yearly Business Meeting  
Fourth Month 5-8, 2007**

**Plenary 1  
Thursday, April 5, 4:10 - 5:30 p.m.**

Friends gathered and settled into worshipful, attentive silence to begin the first plenary.

Seated at the Clerk's table for this and subsequent sessions were Susan Taylor (Tallahassee), Yearly Meeting and presiding clerk; Sybil Ann Brennan (Gainesville), Assistant IBM and YM assistant clerk; and Ed Lesnick (Orlando), YM Recording clerk.

These minutes are the record of the 2007 Yearly Business Meeting (YBM). The numbered minutes appear within the narrative and as a separate attachment. [Attachment 1: 2007 YBM Numbered Minutes]

YM clerk Susan Taylor welcomed Friends. She thanked all for attending, spoke of the support she felt, and how we value our spirituality as Quakers, which includes the nurturing that is the foundation of our lives as well as how our lives are ordered as Quakers.

The Clerk read a selection from the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice*.

I have never lost the enjoyment of sitting in silence at the beginning of meeting, knowing that anything can happen, knowing the joy of utmost surprise; feeling that nothing is preordained, nothing is set, all is open.

The light can come from all sides. The joy of experiencing the Light in a completely different way than one has thought it would come is one of the greatest gifts that Friends' meeting for worship has brought me.

-Ursula Franklin, 1979, p.105.

Friends approved the Clerk's opening minute:

**07YBM01** The 45<sup>th</sup> session of Southeastern Yearly Meeting opened with meeting for worship with attention to business, Thursday afternoon, April 5, 2007, on the shores of Lake Griffin at the United Methodist Life Enrichment Center.

We gathered with gratitude for the workshops on clerking led by Arthur Larrabee. We were actively reminded of the need for everyone to come to meeting for business with a clerking consciousness. Our meeting's business is meeting for worship in which we as a body or the body of Christ seek Godly outcomes or outcomes of the Spirit.

## Roll Call and Introductions

The Clerk asked Friends from monthly meetings and worship groups to stand and introduce themselves. Introductions, requests, milestones, and greetings from monthly meetings, the preparatory group, and worship groups were shared. [Attachment 2: 2007 Yearly Meeting Gathering Registrants]

Friends' comments included:

- Greetings were offered by Charleston Monthly Meeting.
- Ft. Lauderdale noted Peter Ackerman's absence due to his mother's illness. Friends were requested to hold Peter and family in the Light.
- Ft. Myers requested Barbara French to be held in the Light.
- Gainesville reported a wedding, two births, and an adoption. Two from their community have passed away.
- The YM clerk has been in contact with Golden Isle WG clerk Maud Tucker. Susan Taylor and Wendy Clarissa Geiger will visit the worship group in May.
- The YM clerk had a telephone discussion with Key West worship group, who report about twenty attenders present at meetings "in season."
- Miami MM mentioned the meeting's Peace Center project. Member Doris Emerson recalled 20 years ago when SEYM celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At the time she as YM clerk, and she is still thankful for all the years of her involvement with SEYM.
- The clerk noted Ocala Friends Meeting long-time SEYM participant, George Newkirk.
- Savannah is holding worship at Trinity United Methodist Church. Many of its members and attenders are Philadelphia transplants.
- Space Coast announced the arrival of a new birthright member to the meeting.
- St. Petersburg continues to mourn the loss of Christine O'Brien and Peter Deveau. Ruth Paine and Charles Smith have relocated to California. Their presence is missed as well. The Nicaraguan hairdressing school established by Pam Haigh through ProNica has a video about the school produced by Miami Friend Carl Hersh.
- Tampa presented a memorial minute for William Greenleaf, a dearly beloved, founding member of SEYM. Out of the silence, Friends spoke of his affability, eldering skills, and humor. [Attachment 3: Memorial Minute

for William “Bill” Greenleaf.]

**Visitors were welcomed and introduced:**

FUM representative - Terri Johns; FWCC – Margaret Fraser; FCNL – Ned Stowe; Earlham College – Steve Angel; Friends Fiduciary Corp. – Connie Brooks; FWCC - Nancy Rose; Right Sharing of World’s Resources – Jackie Speicher; Guilford College – Max Carter; Quaker Earthcare Witness - Ron Zwirner ; and Arthur Larrabee – Walton lecturer; General Secretary, Philadelphia YM

**The clerk introduced and read Traveling Letters for the following visitors:**

FGC representative and regular attendee at SEYM - Michael Wajda FGC Advancement & Outreach; BYM Intervisitation - Mariah Bradley FGC Yearly Meeting visitors program - Sandra Beer

Upon the clerk’s request and in the silence, Friends considered the meeting’s need for an individual or individuals to write the **2007 SEYM Epistle**.

**Faith and Practice Committee Report** Connie Ray gave Faith and Practice Committee announcements: Phoebe Andersen, clerk of Faith and Practice, was unable to attend this year’s Gathering due to her mother’s surgery. Friends hold Phoebe’s mother and the Andersens in the Light. [Also, see the SEYM website for the Faith & Practice sections and their status.]

Faith and Practice threshing sessions were canceled, but two sections, initially considered and published, will be presented for first draft approval at the YBM: *Blessed Community and Concerns, Leadings and Testimonies*.

The committee is currently working on the history of SEYM and requests input from monthly meetings and worship groups.

**Nominating Committee Preliminary Report**

Dan Vaughn, Nominating Committee clerk, gave a preliminary report. There is a “bountiful supply of opportunities” to serve SEYM as certain committee and representative positions remain open and several terms expire. There is a particular need in the following areas: Archives, Faith and Practice, finance, and membership recorder. [Also, see DIA, p. 14]

Position responsibilities and duties are available in the newly revised and published *SEYM Operational Handbook*.

The session concluded with silent worship.

**Plenary 2**  
**Friday, April 6, 10:15 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

Friends gathered and settled into worshipful, attentive silence to begin the second plenary session.

YM clerk, Susan Taylor, gave opening remarks. Easter weekend and the Easter experience have a variety of meanings to current day Friends. Early friends did not celebrate “holidays” but believed Spirit-led, faithful, everyday practices are with us, always. In our society we now celebrate or remember these days, but we must be mindful of our daily ways.

Clerk read from Wilmer Cooper's: *A Living Faith*, quoting Rachel Hadley King, *Fox and the Light Within*, pp. 161-162. “. . . *The cross of Christ was the power of God within is in opposition to, or goes contrary to the evil in human nature.*

From the clerking workshop, we are reminded that the foundations of our meetings for worship are the Spirit; outcomes are Godly outcomes: *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.* [Galatians 5:22-23]

### **Introduction of Attendees and Visitors**

The Clerk asked newly arrived Friends and visitors to stand and introduce themselves [Attachment 2: Gathering Meeting Registrants]

### **Reading from Epistles and Correspondence**

The Clerk read a letter from Marit Kromberg, clerk, and Bronwyn Harwood, Executive Secretary, Europe & Middle East Section, FWCC, dated August 2006.

Dear Friends,

In these extremely turbulent times in the Middle East, the sad news that Middle East Yearly Meeting has been canceled is hardly surprising . . .

Also presented was an accompanying letter from Tony Manasseh, Brummana (Lebanon) MM, Middle East Yearly Meeting. The initial paragraph stated:

From the midst of great suffering and unfairness, from the land of destruction and death, voices of love still emerge. These are the voices of reason and humanity that the world will always need and cherish. Be sure that love and peace will always win and finally reign. We need to work harder to make this happen.

Clerk read portions of *An Epistle from Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns*. The epistle was sent forth from the Summit Conference Center at

Haw River State Park, Greensboro, North Carolina, and February 18, 2007. [Attachment 4: *An Epistle from Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns.*]

Among other segments, the clerk shared the epistle's opening paragraph.

Once again, we are called to testify to the love we find moving among us. It is the testimony of radical inclusion. It is a cause of great pain to our corporate body to know that there are some Friends for whom our message is deeply disturbing; indeed, apparently, in contradiction of their strongly held beliefs. It would gladden our hearts if Friends could soften their hearts to hear us out.

### **2007 Yearly Meeting Gathering Epistle**

Following general announcements, the Epistle committee was named to include: Cathy Gaskill, Barbara Wolf, Warren Hoskins, and others. Additional contributors were encouraged to join the group.

### **Gathering Committee Preliminary Report**

Steve Kinney, Gathering Committee clerk gave a preliminary report. Approximately 160 adults and 30 youth were registered for the 2007 YM Gathering.

The J. Bernard Walton Lecturer for 2008 will be Steven W. Angell.

There is a continuing need for youth workers, volunteers and gathering committee members.

### **Worship and Ministry Report**

Kody Hersh gave the report on behalf of the committee and co-clerks. The 2008 Michener Lecturer has yet to be confirmed. The committee has a concern the selection process will demonstrate deep discernment and seasoning as a choice is made.

Lyn Cope was selected for the Pendle Hill scholarship.

SEYM Worship & Ministry committee expresses its deep gratitude for the service and wisdom shown by Fern Mayo, George Newkirk, Fran Palmer, and Petra Doan who have cheerfully supported the work of the Worship & Ministry Committee year after year. (These Friends are completing their terms on the Committee.) Also, see DIA, pp. 16-17.

### **Executive Committee Report**

Nancy Fennell, Executive Committee clerk and Interim Business Meeting clerk gave the Executive Committee report.

The June EC meeting will include an afternoon retreat “. . . looking at ourselves, our work, and what to do.” The 2006 June EC meeting was productive in setting forth EC's priorities.

EC clerk offered a minute approved by EC about the procedure to be followed if a committee clerk was unable to perform the clerk's duties. Friends approved the following:

**07YBM02** While the Nominating Committee appoints committee clerks and co-clerks, the committee clerks at their discretion may appoint an assistant clerk from that committee, so that should the committee clerk be unable to perform the clerk's duties, the committee's work may continue.

Minutes approved by the fall and winter IBM were presented and explained by the EC clerk.

Permanent members of the Executive Committee:

**07YBM03** The clerk of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, clerk of the Youth Committee, clerk of Half Yearly Meeting, and the Membership Recorder are permanent members of the Executive Committee.

Gathering Youth Endowment Fund:

**07YBM04** Any remaining funds from the Yearly Meeting gathering, after all expenses are paid, will be invested in the YM Gathering Youth Endowment Fund.

Michener Lecture Endowment Fund:

**07YBM05** Any remaining funds from the Michener Lecture shall be transferred to the Michener Lecture Endowment fund.

Funds available for representative travel:

**07YBM06** The YM plans to increase money available for representative travel to approved organizations. Ultimately, the YM wants to be able to compensate all requested travel expenses of official representatives. It is requested that the Finance Committee develop a plan of intention in this matter to bring forward for YM consideration.

List of official representation for the YM:

**07YBM07** the list of official representation for the YM is expanded to include sending:

- a. representation to Friends General Conference Consultations (by invitation, every two years);
- b. YM Clerk to FGC Central Committee and FGC YM clerk consultations;
- c. YM and IBM clerks to a clerking workshop, as needed, when newly appointed.

Traveling minute from Palm Beach Monthly Meeting written for Jack Bradin:

**07YBM08** Southeastern Yearly Meeting supports the traveling minute from Palm Beach Monthly Meeting written for Jack Bradin as he travels among Friends carrying a “Minute of Grave Concern” relative to civil liberties.

Encouragement to use the FCNL website:

**07YBM09** SEYM urges monthly meeting members to use the FCNL website as a simple and effective means to contact our legislators on specific issues of concern to Friends. This is especially critical as FCNL has increased access to the 110th Congress.

Monthly meeting representation at YBM and IBM:

**07YBM10** Southeastern Yearly Meeting asks that all affiliated monthly and preparative meetings and worship groups name at least one representative to SEYM Yearly Business Meeting and Interim Business Meeting sessions to bring reports from meetings to and take reports back to meetings from SEYM Yearly Business Meeting and Interim Business Meeting sessions. Members and attenders other than representatives are also urged to attend Yearly Meeting and Interim Business Meeting Sessions.

Revision of the Representative Travel Guidelines:

**07YBM11** YM approves the 2007 revision of the Representative Travel Guidelines. [Attachment 11: Representative Travel Guidelines]

Naming Committee for the Nominating Committee:

**07YBM12** YM adopts the practice of appointing a Naming Committee to nominate members of the Nominating Committee. Members of this ad hoc committee shall be appointed annually by the Executive committee clerk and approved by E.C. Names of members of the Naming Committee shall be brought before the Yearly Meeting at Winter IBM. Any nominations arising from the floor at WIBM shall be taken under consideration.

Consisting of a minimum of three (3) Executive Committee members, respecting gender and regional representation, and allowing time for proper discernment, Naming Committee members shall serve a term from WIBM through Yearly Business (YBM) sessions.

The Naming Committee reports their recommendations directly to the YBM.

**Plenary 3**  
**Saturday, April 7, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

The meeting began with silent worship. Yearly meeting clerk Susan Taylor encouraged Friends to move forward with the day's agenda in the spirit of the previous evening's intergenerational dance.

**Reading from Correspondence and Epistles**

The clerk read portions of a press release from the New York YM spring session, March 31 - April 2, 2006. The central focus was “. . . our belief in the Power of the Living Spirit to bring peace and prosperity to all people and acknowledge that paying taxes to support war violates our conscience.” A minute was approved. It read:

The Living Spirit works to give joy, peace and prosperity through love, integrity and compassionate justice among people. We are united in this Power. We acknowledge that paying for war violates our religious conviction. We will witness to this religious conviction in each of our communities.

New England YM gathered for its 346<sup>th</sup> Annual Session from August 5-10, 2006. A portion of their epistle stated:

We held a special “Meeting for Worship for Yearning,” a time for grieving and prayer and weeping and discernment, in our deep distress about the state of our country and the world: wars, arms, occupations, torture, destruction of the natural world, debt, abuse of authority, economic and physical violence in our cities and abroad . . . We pray to God the compassionate, the merciful, to renew us in the life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars, to restore us and our society to a rightful mind.

The clerk welcomed the presence of SEYM Quaker youth at the third plenary session. Their presence was in response to the weighty concern of SEYM's relationship with FUM. The ad hoc committee / workgroup was continuing its discernment and was scheduled to report during Saturday's afternoon session.

**Reports from representatives to FUM** – Phoebe Andersen and Lisa Stewart were SEYM representatives to the Friends United Meeting General Board. Correspondence, reports, monthly meeting discernments, and other information are on web site: [www.seym.org](http://www.seym.org).

*Note:* Lisa Stewart's complete report on her observations in Kenya and attendance at the FUM meetings is included as Attachment 6B.

Lisa summarized her experience with African FUM Friends in Kenya.



Outside of Nairobi, the people live in a pre-industrial revolution, agriculture society. Amidst great poverty, hospitals were most in need of assistance. Two hospitals visited were dilapidated; mold infested and had rusted structures.

The General Board recognizes other issues of greater concern than their discriminatory hiring policy. Meeting of an "identity committee," revealed that the Kenyan's concerns rest with the related issues of deprivation and poverty.

From support of the Richmond Declaration to the extreme position that gays and their supporters should be killed, Kenyan Friends see unnecessary any energy taken up with the issue of the General Board policy. The F.U.M General Board is more concerned with other issues.

Several options for SEYM to consider were reiterated, including funds to support FUM activities in Africa, and the degree of SEYM's participation in FUM.

Lisa concluded that there are vast cultural and religious differences between FUM (particularly, African Friends) and the outlook taken by SEYM.

### **Peace and Social Concerns Committee report**

Cecilia Yocum, clerk, presented the Peace and Social Concerns report, including Friends Peace Teams. [Also, see DIA p. 15]

Friends Peace Teams continue their work in Great Lakes region of Africa. Re-settlement of returning soldiers, rebuilding relationships among the people, breaking the cycle of retribution, and assisting to create climates of safety and trust is an ongoing challenge in a region suffering from the harshest of human plight, genocide.

The Peace Teams look to expand their efforts into Latin America, and, perhaps, Indonesia. Cece, who served with the Peace Teams in Africa earlier in the year, will undertake similar challenges in Colombia.

Cece noted committee suggestions for continued right use of the environment (i.e., recycling, carpooling, sustainable practices, etc.), resources on web, homeless issues, School for the Americas (now renamed), and the War in Iraq. Concerning the War in Iraq, the committee offered a minuted for consideration.

**07YBM13** SEYM urges Friends to be vigilant in protesting the war in Iraq by spreading the word of the war's impact as seen from the Iraqi perspective. Specifically, the Johns Hopkins study on Iraqi civilian mortality, published in *Lancet* (October, 2006), indicated that:

650,000 Iraqis have died since the war began in March, 2003;

Two million Iraqis are now internally displaced and an additional two million are externally displaced.

The psychological, social, and environmental effects of the war will both be long term and severe;

SEYM urges Friends to consider how they are led to respond.

### **Treasurer's report**

In the absence of Neil Andersen, Treasurer, Caroline Lanker summarized the current budget's status. [Also, see DIA, pp. 8-12.]

The current budget is in line with expectations. Nearly 80% of monthly meeting donations have been collected (all meetings have made some contribution), and annual, individual contributions have been exceeded.

**07YBM14** SEYM accepts the Treasurer's report.

### **Finance Committee report/ first presentation of budget**

Caroline Lanker, clerk of finance presented the FY 2007-2008 budget. The Proposed Budget was brought before WIBM and also appears in the DIA, pp. 9-12. Major changes from the previous year's budget include:

- ◆ Funding health insurance for the secretary, who is now a full time employee. The Finance committee will work out the details.
- ◆ Fully fund representatives to organizations. This is a 5% increase to cover annual and triennial travel.
- ◆ There is an expected income increase from the Trustees' funds.
- ◆ A 10.1% increase in meeting contributions. An increase/decrease in membership may cause an adjustment in this amount.

Budget changes appear on p. 9 of the DIA; subsequent modifications appear in the minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> plenary session and Attachment 8.

### **Reports from SEYM representatives to Quaker organizations**

- ◆ American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) – See DIA
- ◆ AFSC-SERO: See Fall (2006) IBM DIA
- ◆ FCNL – Connie Ray for Dana Putney [Attachment 5: Friends Committee on National Legislation. FCNL report submitted by Dana Putney].

**Plenary 4**  
**Saturday, April 7, 1:10 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**8:40 p.m. – 11:20 p.m.**

The afternoon session began with a period of expectant worship.

**Additional Reports of Representative from Quaker Organizations**

◆ Jackie Speicher spoke on behalf of the Quaker action group Right Sharing of the World's Resources. The organization, which was begun 40 years ago, has headquarters in Richmond, Indiana. "Right Sharing" has assisted in supporting dozens of grassroots projects for economic development and offering educational materials for the study of the lives of the poor,

Some current projects are in support of the Rafiki Mwema (Kenya) women's group, Rwanda YM Friend House, which hosts a program on women's income generating, and small business. Grants also fund other women's support and agricultural development projects.

◆ Davida Johns, stateside coordinator, gave the ProNica report. [Attachment 9: ProNica report]

**SEYM's Affiliation with Friends United Meeting**

The Clerk explained that per minute **06YM14**, the purpose of this session is for revisitation and ongoing discernment as to whether SEYM remains affiliated with, or disaffiliates from, Friends United Meeting (FUM), or finds a third way to accomplish unity.

Ed Lesnick, Recording clerk, read minute **06YM14**.

**06YM14** Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) offers this minute of grave concern, reflective of our struggle with the issue of our affiliation with Friends United Meeting.

We are united in our strong opposition to the policy contained in FUM minute 88GB-52; on the grounds it violates the Quaker testimony of Equality. [See Attachment to 2006 YM Minutes *UM General Board Minute 88 GB 52*]

This FUM policy causes profound pain in our members and to our community.

As an affirmation of who we are, the Marriage and commitment section of our Faith and Practice defines marriage as a union between a couple before God, and deliberately does not define what constitutes a couple in terms of gender.

Our experience in SEYM has been that spiritual gifts are distributed by how Friends are called and their faithfulness to that call, not by marital status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

At this time, we find we are not in unity to disaffiliate with FUM. We are also not in unity to remain affiliated with FUM. We encourage Friends in SEYM and FUM to maintain and

expand Friendly communications as they are led. We urge the FUM Board to reopen the discernment regarding personnel policy minute 88GB-52.

Our process of discernment with regard to SEYM's relationship to Friends United Meeting is ongoing. We will revisit this at our next Yearly Meeting.

The clerk read a response to the 2006 SEYM Epistle received from **Netherlands YM** clerk Kees Neuwerth who wrote, in part:

. . . So even if you did decide to disaffiliate from FUM, you would still be members of our worldwide Family Friends.

In that spirit we extend our loving care to you, encourage you to continue to follow that which you hold true, and hope you will succeed in finding a way forward in unity at the next session of *your* Yearly Meeting of *our* Religious Society of Friends. We will be holding you in the Light in our meetings for worship!

### **Ongoing Discernment (2006-2007)**

Between YMB sessions of 2006 and 2007, there were several developments as Friends undertook the continuing concern of the relationship and affiliation between SEYM and Friends United Meeting.

As approved at YM sessions [06YM14, 06YM15], YM clerk Susan Taylor mailed the pertinent minutes and a cover letter to the FUM president, clerk, and general secretary.

The SEYM letter was included in the advance documents packet for the upcoming FUM General Board meeting.

Phoebe Andersen and Lisa Stewart, SEYM representatives to FUM, attended meetings of the General Board and engaged FUM Friends in conversation.

It was reported that the Superintendent of Iowa YM and clerk of Indiana YM have sent letters to the General Board seeking a reaffirmation of the *Declaration of Faith (1887)*, a.k.a. the *Richmond Declaration*, which conflicts with the testimonies and views on "continuous revelation" of unprogrammed Friends.

At Fall IBM, Phoebe Andersen requested Friends consider the queries presented in the SEYM summer newsletter. With the leading of the Spirit, these would help SEYM, monthly meetings and individual Friends continue with the discernment process.

The queries published in the *SEYM Newsletter* (Summer/Fall, 2006) were mailed to monthly meetings prior to the WIBM. Also, Lisa Stewart attended the FUM meeting in Nairobi, Kenya in February 2007.

YM Clerk Susan Taylor asked monthly meetings to respond to her letter and the queries. The monthly meetings responded and those responses were posted to the SEYM web site for all to consider. [Re: [www.seym.org/fum.htm](http://www.seym.org/fum.htm)]

Following a period of silent worship and Friends' questions and comments came the workgroup's report.

### **Report of the Workgroup**

As a means to be better prepared for YBM sessions and to be open to the leading of the Spirit, a workgroup was charged with reporting to YBM.

[Attachment 6: YM Clerk's letter regarding working group, April 2, 2007]

Karen Putney gave some background and stated the ad hoc committee /workgroup took seriously its charge to bring forth a shared understanding among meeting representatives.

Report of the Yearly Meeting Workgroup on SEYM's relationship to FUM

Karen Putney, clerk.

Presented at the Fourth Plenary YBM Session, April 6, 2007.

We are clear that monthly meetings have held the concern over our continuing membership in Friends United Meeting tenderly and deeply within their hearts.

We heard the need to lay down our membership is very clear and solidly grounded in the need not to be part of an organization that practices exclusion and in the need to be released from laboring with this concern.

We have heard the need to remain in membership in FUM. It is very clear and ever more solidly grounded in the need to be present, to labor, and to try what love will do.

We share a strong, enduring commitment to our faith path and to the work our testimonies call us to in the world. We respect and love one another. We are concerned that the movement we feel threatens our unity.

In our many years of labor on this concern we have called for Spirit to move among us. We feel strongly the movement of Spirit among us. This unity we can attest to.

We have been given a new measure of light.

In this light we see our membership in FUM more clearly. We are a member of FUM in the fullness that the word membership implies. Our representatives do sit on the FUM General Board and are full participants in the deliberations and decision making of that body. This membership is a responsibility and relationship more than the term affiliation conveys.

In the light we have learned there are Friends in the FUM yearly meetings that are not dually affiliated who actively witness and work for the rights of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender brothers and sisters within their meetings. They labor as Friends in yearly meetings, have labored before within our Religious Society on the issues of slavery, women's suffrage and social justice issues. They remain in membership to be a witness to the truth that Quakerism is, and should be, inclusive.

In light we understand that we are, as a body, experiencing a strong call. We are being called to the work and witness for social justice for our Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender brothers and sisters.

In this light we understand that our labor over the apparent concern for affiliation with FUM has actually discernment within each monthly meeting of how it will answer this call. Some have been called to work and witness in our Religious Society.

The Clerk thanked Karen and the workgroup for their report.

### **Discernment – 4<sup>th</sup> Plenary**

What has been revealed to us on this issue? What are the responses out of worship from Friends present regarding the workgroup's report?

Friends, sometimes gently and at other times energetically, spoke as each was led to do. They questioned, offered solutions, but did not parry. Some yearned for closure, and all sought – in the manner of Quakers – clearness and unity.

The clerk assured all had an opportunity to speak, often-requesting everyone to enter into the silence to seek the Spirit's guidance.

Among the many views expressed and themes raised were:

The pain of discrimination and marginalization felt by LGBTQ members  
The empathy and support for *all* without consideration of sexual orientation  
The need to be true to Quaker values and testimonies of equality and integrity  
Separation's meaning to those who value the "larger" Quaker community  
The meeting as a *family* and the difficulty in *the divorce*, and the need for SEYM to "go in love" and not in anger  
FUM's (un) willingness to give a priority to its policy; the capacity for people and groups to change; and the role of continuing revelation  
How to reorder SEYM financial contributions to FUM

Terri Johns, FUM's staff representative to SEYM's Gathering, stated she was "saddened" by the way sexual minorities were treated. She recognized SEYM's desire for disaffiliation, and hoped for future changes that would lead to reconciliation.

As a way forward, Gary Arthur (Palm Beach) saw an opening as he and others offered to meet during the dinner hour to craft a minute that acknowledged the leaning towards disaffiliation but would bring unity to the YM.

Friends decided to continue the session following the Walton Lecture this evening.

Upon reconvening, the Clerk requested there be a “connection with the Spirit as we continue with our business.”

Gary Arthur offered a minute for consideration. Friends offered additions, deletions, and alternative wording to the minute. In the spirit of unity, there were many accommodations.

**07YBM15** SEYM is in unity in declaring that our Yearly Meeting has entered a period of transformation with regard to our membership in Friends United Meeting. We acknowledge great pain and struggle within our body and, as we have heard, among other members of F.U.M. as well, over this process and we strive to hold each other in love and Light as we labor.

We will work as a Yearly Meeting toward reaching unity with regard to laying down our present relationship, and toward creating new relationships as opportunities arise and as spirit leads.

To allow this process to occur, SEYM will suspend formal membership in F.U.M. for two years. During this time, our yearly meeting will make no financial contributions to F.U.M. Instead, the funds that would have gone to F.U.M. will go to support F.U.M.-related activities or outreach at the discretion or suggestion of SEYM. We will offer both financial and spiritual support to representatives to F.U.M. as our members come forward to carry out those duties. If at the end of the two-year period our membership is not in unity to renew the relationship, SEYM will permanently lay down our membership in F.U.M.

We seek to maintain a loving relationship with Friends United Meeting. We also look for opportunities to communicate with members of F.U.M. about our concerns.

Friends approve.

**07YBM16** Delivery of the minute 07YBM15 to FUM will be at the discretion of the YM clerk and SEYM representatives to FUM.

Friends approve.

**07YBM17** SEYM expresses appreciation for the spirit led discussion of the working group that met on the relationship of SEYM to FUM. SEYM expresses gratitude for the leadership of the working group.

Friends approve.

The evening session ended with silent worship.

**Plenary 5**  
**Easter Sunday, April 8, 9:15 -10:30 a.m.**

The concluding session of the 2007 SEYM Yearly Business Meeting began with silent worship.

Clerk Susan Taylor bid Friends a good morning; She noted how we have different ways of expressing ourselves and sharing our truth and differences in a greater community. We are grateful for being in the Spirit.

**Reading of Epistles from Other Yearly Meetings**

The clerk read portions of the epistles from Lake Erie Yearly Meeting, (June 15-18, 2006) and Illinois Yearly Meeting. From the conclusion of the Lake Erie YM epistle:

We gathered, we have worshipped, we have worked, we have learned, and we have celebrated during our gathering. We trust we have grown and are stronger in spirit as we return to our home communities. We pray that we continue not only to listen, but to heed.

**Re-reading of 07YBM15, SEYM-FUM Relationship.** The Recording clerk read the final minute approved at the fourth plenary. This is the position of SEYM regarding our relationship to Friends United Meeting.

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We seek to maintain a loving relationship with Friends United Meeting. We also look for opportunities to communicate with members of F.U.M. about our concerns.



## **Friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer concerns report**

Kody Hersh gave the FGLBTQC report. She shared her experiences at the winter gathering held in North Carolina. See Attachment 4.

## **Nominating Committee report**

Dan Vaughn, clerk, presented the nominating committee's recommendations: [Attachment 7: Nominating Committee Report].

**07YBM19** SEYM approves the Nominating Committee report.

## **Finance Committee Report: 2007 – 2008 FY Budget.**

Caroline Lanker, Finance committee clerk offers in Attachment 8 the 2007-2008 FY budget with .the changes approved at the Gathering.

The Friends Peace Teams line was increased from \$250 to \$1250, in order to support Cecilia's expanded work for FPT (she is intending to make a second trip this year for FPT, this time to Colombia). To raise that money, the YM approved accepting earmarked contributions for FPT.

Caroline stated the minute said we would increase the individual contribution line by \$1000. The line is split in two, adding a line for the earmarked individual contributions. This is necessary in the books in order to keep track of the earmarked contributions.

The FUM contribution of \$1200 was left in, but the YM passed a minute that the money would not be given to FUM general operations but would be used for FUM programs and outreach.

The \$1200 contribution to FUM in the '06-07 budget was carried over to '07-08, pending a decision on its use, which is expected at the fall IBM. This money is reflected in the FY 07-08 budget, as both income and expense, so it does not affect the rest of the lines, except the total.

**07YBM18** SEYM will not send a contribution to FUM.

SEYM directs the Finance Committee to carry over the \$1200 to the next fiscal year.

SEYM Friends are encouraged to contact the Finance Committee in writing

for the use of the money budgeted for FUM for FY06-07. A decision on its distribution will be made at FIBM. [Note: Minute was approved prior to the Nominating committee report.]

**07YBM20** SEYM approves the budget for FY 2007-2008 with amendments approved by the YB meeting. [Attachment 8: 2007-2008 Fiscal Year Budget]]

### **SEYM Youth Program Epistles**

Wee Friends, Young Friends, and Teen Friends presented their epistles to the enjoyment and love of Friends gathered, [Attachment 12: SEYM Youth Program Epistles]

### **Faith & Practice**

**07YBM21** SEYM approves the Faith and Practice section *Blessed Community*.

**07YBM22** SEYM approves the Faith and Practice section *Concerns, Leadings, and Testimonies*

### **SEYM Representatives to Quaker Organizations**

◆ Quaker Earthcare Witness report was offered by Mary Jo Kline and Jack Braden, [Also, see WIBM report, p. 15] attended a meeting in Arizona; The next meeting is in Chicago. Barbara Letsch will also attend.

Thirteen monthly meeting representatives contribute to the SEYM QEW. Their participation is appreciated. They are:

Charleston – Candace Beace, Beth Eddy; Crestview, -Tommie Gipson; Jacksonville - Wendy Geiger, Al Geiger; Miami – Brian Olsen; Palm Beach – Barbara Letsch; St. Pete – Davida Johns, Tampa– Sharon Olenski, Francis Drake; Winter Park – Martha Morris .

A QEW committee request will be forwarded for consideration at the Fall Interim Business Meeting.

◆ FWCC report: Sybil Brennan reported the activities of the Friends World Committee for Consultation. [Attachment 10: FWCC Report; Also see WIBM-DIA, pp. 14.15]

◆Michael Wadja, representative from Friends General Conference, reviewed current FGC activities. including: conferences and meetings, traveling ministry, young adult program,, advancement and outreach committee, and the FGC website; “Quaker Quest,” an attempt to reach out to the public is a pilot project that has had good results among English Quakers. Kody Hersh will be an evening speaker at the FGC gathering

**SEYM Epistle** Kathy Gaskill and committee [Attachment 13: SEYM Epistle]

**07YBM23** SEYM approves the YM Epistle, as amended with corrections to be made by the Epistle committee and YM clerk.

### **Minutes of Appreciation**

**07YBM24** We thank everyone who helped to make the 45<sup>th</sup> SEYM Gathering a reality. So many Friends sat together to do the business and others made it possible for us to have time for fellowship, to be warm, and to eat tasty meals. Thank you for the presence of the Spirit, the beautiful lakeside worship space, and for the attendance of all the young people.

**07YBM25** SEYM expresses appreciation for Arthur Larrabee who was faithful to a message we all needed to hear.

### **Gathering Committee report**

Steve McKinney, clerk, summarized the number of attendees were 190; the helpfulness of volunteers was appreciated, there I a need for increased involvement with the Gathering committee, and applause for the efforts of Gathering registrar, Andrea Walsh.

Following closing comments by the Clerk, The 5<sup>th</sup> plenary concluded with extended worship.

## Attachment 1

### 2007 YBM Numbered Minutes

07YBM01 The 45th session of Southeastern Yearly Meeting opened with meeting for worship with attention to business, Thursday afternoon, April 5, 2007, on the shores of Lake Griffin at the United Methodist Life Enrichment Center.

We gathered with gratitude for the workshops on clerking led by Arthur Larrabee. We were actively reminded of the need for everyone to come to meeting for business with a clerking consciousness. Our meetings for business are meetings for worship in which we as a body or the body of Christ seek Godly outcomes or outcomes of the Spirit.

07YBM02 While the Nominating Committee appoints committee clerks and co-clerks, the committee clerks at their discretion may appoint an assistant clerk from that committee, so that should the committee clerk be unable to perform the clerk's duties, the committee's work may continue.

07YBM03 The clerk of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, clerk of the Youth Committee, clerk of Half Yearly Meeting, and the Membership Recorder are permanent members of the Executive Committee.

07YBM04 Any remaining funds from the Yearly Meeting gathering, after all expenses are paid, will be invested in the YM Gathering Youth Endowment Fund.

07YBM05 Any remaining funds from the Michener Lecture shall be transferred to the Michener Lecture Endowment fund.

07YBM06 The YM plans to increase money available for representative travel to approved organizations. Ultimately, the YM wants to be able to compensate all requested travel expenses of official representatives. It is requested that the Finance Committee develop a plan of intention in this matter to bring forward for YM consideration.

07YBM07 the list of official representation for the YM is expanded to include sending:

- a. representation to Friends General Conference Consultations (by invitation, every two years);
- b. YM Clerk to FGC Central Committee and FGC YM clerk consultations;

c. YM and IBM clerks to a clerking workshop, as needed, when newly appointed.

07YBM08 Southeastern Yearly Meeting supports the traveling minute from Palm Beach Monthly Meeting written for Jack Bradin as he travels among Friends carrying a “Minute of Grave Concern” relative to civil liberties.

07YBM09 SEYM urges monthly meeting members to use the FCNL website as a simple and effective means to contact our legislators on specific issues of concern to Friends. This is especially critical as FCNL has increased access to the 110th Congress.

07YBM10 Southeastern Yearly Meeting asks that all affiliated monthly and preparative meetings and worship groups name at least one representative to SEYM Yearly Business Meeting and Interim Business Meeting sessions to bring reports from meetings to and take reports back to meetings from SEYM Yearly Business Meeting and Interim Business Meeting sessions. Members and attenders other than representatives are also urged to attend Yearly Meeting and Interim Business Meeting Sessions.

07YBM11 YM approves the 2007 revision of the Representative Travel Guidelines.

07YBM12 YM adopts the practice of appointing a Naming Committee to nominate members of the Nominating Committee. Members of this ad hoc committee shall be appointed annually by the Executive committee clerk and approved by E.C. Names of members of the Naming Committee shall be brought before the Yearly Meeting at Winter IBM. Any nominations arising from the floor at WIBM shall be taken under consideration.

Consisting of a minimum of three (3) Executive Committee members, respecting gender and regional representation, and allowing time for proper discernment, Naming Committee members shall serve a term from WIBM through Yearly Business (YBM) sessions.

The Naming Committee reports their recommendations directly to the YBM.

07YBM13 SEYM urges Friends to be vigilant in protesting the war in Iraq by spreading the word of the war’s impact as seen from the Iraqi perspective. The Johns Hopkins study on Iraqi civilian mortality, published in *Lancet* (October, 2006), indicated that:

650,000 Iraqis have died since the war began in March, 2003;

Two million Iraqis are now internally displaced and an additional two million are externally displaced;

The psychological, social, and environmental effects of the war will both be long term and severe.

SEYM urges Friends to consider how they are led to respond.

07YBM14 SEYM accepts the Treasurer's report.

07YBM15 SEYM is in unity in declaring that our Yearly Meeting has entered a period of transformation with regard to our membership in Friends United Meeting. We acknowledge great pain and struggle within our body and, as we have heard, among other members of F.U.M. as well, over this process and we strive to hold each other in love and Light as we labor.

We will work as a Yearly Meeting toward reaching unity with regard to laying down our present relationship, and toward creating new relationships as opportunities arise and as spirit leads.

To allow this process to occur, SEYM will suspend formal membership in F.U.M. for two years. During this time, our yearly meeting will make no financial contributions to F.U.M. Instead, the funds that would have gone to F.U.M. will go to support F.U.M.-related activities or outreach at the discretion or suggestion of SEYM. We will offer both financial and spiritual support to representatives to F.U.M. as our members come forward to carry out those duties. If at the end of the two-year period our membership is not in unity to renew the relationship, SEYM will permanently lay down our membership in F.U.M.

We seek to maintain a loving relationship with Friends United Meeting. We also look for opportunities to communicate with members of F.U.M. about our concerns.

07YBM16 Delivery of the minute 07YBM15 to FUM will be at the discretion of the YM clerk and SEYM representatives to FUM.

07YBM17 SEYM expresses appreciation for the spirit led discussion of the working group that met on the relationship of SEYM to FUM. SEYM expresses gratitude for the leadership of the working group.

07YBM18 SEYM will not send a contribution to FUM for the fiscal year 2006-2007.

SEYM directs the Finance Committee to carry over the budgeted \$1200 to the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

SEYM Friends are encouraged to contact the Finance Committee in writing for the use of the money budgeted for FUM for FY06-07. A decision on its distribution will be made at FIBM.

07YBM19 SEYM approves the Nominating Committee report.

07YBM20 SEYM approves the proposed General Fund budget with the following modifications:

1. The \$1200 budget line proposed for FUM will be redirected to support FUM-related activities or outreach as approved in minute 07YBM15.
2. The budget line item for Friends' Peace Teams will be increased from \$250 to \$1250 in order to support Cecilia Yocum's increased work with FPT. In conjunction with this,
  - a. SEYM will accept earmarked contributions for the FPT line item in the General Fund Budget. If more than the budget amount is contributed, all of the earmarked donations will go the FPT line item.
  - b. The individual donations budget line item will be increased by \$1000 to balance the increased budgeted expenses.
  - c. The FPT line item will be administered by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee in order to support Cecilia Yocum's work with FPT.

07YBM21 SEYM approves the Faith and Practice section *Blessed Community*.

07YBM22 SEYM approves the Faith and Practice section *Concerns, Leadings, and Testimonies*.

07YBM23 SEYM approves the YM Epistle, as amended with corrections to be made by the Epistle committee.

07YBM24 We thank everyone who helped to make the 45<sup>th</sup> SEYM Gathering a reality. So many Friends sat together to do the business and others made it possible for us to have time for fellowship, to be warm, and to eat tasty meals. Thank you for the presence of the Spirit, the beautiful lakeside worship space, and for the attendance of all the young people.

07YBM25 SEYM expresses appreciation for Arthur Larrabee who was faithful to a message we all needed to hear.



Attachment 2:  
Yearly Meeting Gathering Registrants

| <u>Meeting</u>        | <u>Name</u> |          | <i>Gainesville</i>   | Brennan         | Sybil Ann |
|-----------------------|-------------|----------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| <i>Clearwater</i>     | Day         | Peter    |                      | Demers-Holdon   | Cheryl    |
|                       | Day         | Sue      |                      | Dominguez       | Daniel    |
|                       | Flanery     | Mike     |                      | Dominguez       | Nicole    |
|                       | Flanery     | Terry    |                      | Doran           | Shawna    |
|                       | Lord        | George   |                      | Doran-Scuteella | Erin      |
|                       | Rushforth   | Bob      |                      | Gamble          | Ethan     |
|                       | Zingaro     | Eileen   |                      | Gamble          | Gavin     |
| <i>Crestview WG</i>   | Gipson      | Tommie   |                      | Haecker         | Cecilia   |
|                       |             |          |                      | Larson          | Jeanette  |
|                       |             |          |                      | Manduley        | Odalis    |
| <i>Deland PM</i>      | Gaebel      | Annica   |                      | Odum            | Betty     |
|                       | Gaebel      | Drew     |                      | Puckett         | Catherine |
|                       | Gaebel      | Erika    |                      | Ray             | Connie    |
|                       | Gaebel      | Kurt     |                      | Sims            | Sheree    |
|                       | Gaebel      | Rebecca  | <i>Halifax</i>       | Winefordner     | Laura     |
|                       | Gaskill     | Cathy    |                      | McCleery        | Carole    |
|                       | Vaughen     | Daniel   |                      | McCleery        | Richard   |
| <i>Fort Myers</i>     | Vaughen     | Susan    | <i>Jacksonville</i>  | Geiger          | Al        |
|                       | Cummings    | Bonnie   |                      | Geiger          | Wendy     |
|                       | Cummings    | George   |                      | Guenther        | Addie     |
|                       | Fennell     | Nancy    |                      | Guenther        | Erika     |
|                       | Fennell     | Tom      |                      | Guenther        | Kacey     |
|                       | Frey        | Barbara  | <i>Lake Wales WG</i> | Guenther        | Kurt      |
|                       | Howell      | Nancy    |                      | Lanker          | Caroline  |
| <i>Ft. Lauderdale</i> | Lynne       | Erica    | <i>Managua WG</i>    | Hall            | Lillian   |
|                       | Musser      | Brad     |                      | Hall            | Trevor    |
|                       | Velasquez   | Takeisha | <i>Miami</i>         | Begin           | Jessica   |
|                       | Webber      | Al       |                      | Begin           | Karyn     |
|                       | Webber      | Marilyn  |                      | Emerson         | Doris     |
|                       | Humphrey    | Brian    |                      | Hersh           | Carl      |
|                       | Klingel     | Mary Jo  |                      | Hersh           | David     |
| <i>Ocala Friends</i>  | Kohlbach    | Al       |                      | Hersh           | Kathy     |
|                       |             |          |                      | Hersh           | Kody      |
|                       |             |          |                      | Hoskins         | Warren    |
|                       |             |          |                      | Jason           | Andrew    |
|                       |             |          |                      | Patterson       | William   |
|                       |             |          |                      | Phoenix         | Chris     |
|                       |             |          |                      | Shea            | Charlotte |
|                       |             |          |                      | Smith           | Jeanette  |
|                       |             |          |                      | Whelan          | Sabrina   |
|                       |             |          |                      | Stupel          | Judy      |
|                       |             |          |                      | Bechtel         | Carol     |
| <i>Orlando</i>        | Newkirk     | George   | <i>Sarasota</i>      | Garner          | Sallyann  |
|                       | Carlie      | Vicki    |                      | Hanson          | Rolf      |
|                       | Carlie      | William  |                      | Lamb            | RuthAnn   |
|                       | Johnson     | Marty    |                      | Logan           | Nancyrose |
|                       | Laning      | Chris    |                      | Mayo            | Fern      |
|                       | Lesnick     | Ed       |                      | McAdoo          | Mimi      |
|                       | Lesnick     | Kay      |                      | Murphy          | Pat       |
|                       | Schmalstig  | Alan     |                      | Rakytka         | Dave      |
| <i>Palm Beach</i>     | Schmalstig  | Annie    |                      | Sundberg        | Ann       |
|                       | Schmalstig  | Judy     |                      | Sundberg        | Kate      |
|                       | Arthur      | Gary     |                      | Sundberg        | Lisa      |
|                       | Bradin      | Jack     |                      | Windriver       | Freddie   |

|                       |           |            |                    |              |          |
|-----------------------|-----------|------------|--------------------|--------------|----------|
|                       | Carney    | Joan       | <i>Savannah</i>    | Branam       | Herold   |
|                       | Cook      | Joel       |                    | Branam       | Sandy    |
|                       | Coolican  | Shauna     |                    | Guy          | Roger    |
|                       | Karson    | Annabeth   |                    | Perch        | Frank    |
|                       | Letsch    | Barbara    |                    |              |          |
|                       | Nungesser | Martha     | <i>Space Coast</i> | Cope         | Lyn      |
|                       | Sallen    | Jane       |                    | Deppner      | Barbara  |
|                       | Sallen    | Tacy       |                    | Marcinkowski | Marie    |
|                       | Stewart   | Lisa       |                    | Marcinkowski | Matthew  |
|                       | Caldwell  | Ellie      |                    | Marcinkowski | Thomas   |
|                       |           |            | <i>Tallahassee</i> | Bastian      | Hope     |
|                       |           |            |                    | Bejnar       | Tor      |
| <i>St. Petersburg</i> | Dameron   | Armadeus   |                    | Kant-Rauch   | Noah     |
|                       | Dameron   | CarolMaire |                    | Landrum      | Brenda   |
|                       | Grantham  | Mark       |                    | Mariner      | Vicki    |
|                       | Haigh     | Herb       |                    | Prather      | Angie    |
|                       | Haigh     | Pam        |                    | Taylor       | Susan    |
|                       | Henderson | LynnCarol  |                    |              |          |
|                       | Hotchkiss | Connie     | <i>Tampa</i>       | Arnaldi      | John     |
|                       | Hotchkiss | Ed         |                    | Arnaldi      | M.J.     |
|                       | Johns     | Davida     |                    | Benton       | Jocelynn |
|                       | Loomas    | Jamie      |                    | Blackburn    | Tom      |
|                       | Loomas    | Wendy      |                    | Dilling      | Tom      |
|                       | Loomas    | Zach       |                    | Kinney       | Steve    |
|                       | Steele    | Becky      |                    | Lemke        | Dustin   |
|                       | Tait      | Nancy      |                    | Macelocha    | Thomas   |
|                       |           |            |                    | Miles        | Rebecca  |
| <i>Winter Park</i>    | Morris    | Martha     |                    | Olenski      | Sharon   |
|                       | Narva     | Lisa       |                    | Putney       | Karen    |
|                       | Wills     | Ed         |                    | Triscitti    | Nancy    |
|                       |           |            |                    | Walsh        | Andrea   |
|                       |           |            |                    | Ward         | Bill     |
|                       |           |            |                    | Weekes       | Tom      |
|                       |           |            |                    | Wilkins      | Nil      |
|                       |           |            |                    | Wolfe        | Barbara  |
|                       |           |            |                    | Yocum        | Cece     |

*Other Friends and Representatives of Organizations*

|           |            |                                    |
|-----------|------------|------------------------------------|
| Angell    | Stephen    | Earlham College                    |
| Beer      | Carolyn    | NYYM                               |
| Beer      | Sandra     | NYYM                               |
| Bradley   | Maria      | BYM - FGC Outreach                 |
| Bradley   | Tim        | BYM                                |
| Brooks    | Connie     | Friends Fiduciary Corp             |
| Carter    | Max        | Guilford College                   |
| Chavez    | Juan Pablo | Florida Immigrant Coalition        |
| Fraser    | Margaret   | FWCC                               |
| Johns     | Terri      | FUM                                |
| Knott     | Betti      | AFSC                               |
| Larabee   | Arthur     | Walton Lecturer                    |
| Levie     | Alison     | Goshen / PYM                       |
| Moukaddam | Samir      | AFSC - SERO                        |
| Repoley   | Christina  | SAYMA                              |
| Rose      | Nancy      | FWCC                               |
| Speicher  | Jackie     | Right Sharing of World's Resources |
| Stowe     | Ned        | FCNL                               |
| Wajda     | Michael    | FGC                                |
| Zwirner   | Rod        | QEW                                |

### Attachment 3:

#### Memorial minute for J. William Greenleaf

Tampa Monthly Meeting expresses its appreciation for the life and service of long time member J. William "Bill" Greenleaf, who passed away January 15, 2007. Bill's leadership, wisdom, integrity, friendship, sense of humor and loving presence will be missed."

J. William Greenleaf passed away at 90 years of age, January 15, 2007, at John Knox Village in Tampa, Florida. He was born in St. Paul, Minnesota on May 21, 1916, four years after his older brother Richard. Four years later his father died of scarlet fever. His mother then moved with her two sons to New York to be near her family. Bill attended Erasmus Hall High School, Brooklyn NY, where he discovered his gift for creative writing, and graduated in the class of 1933. During this same time he began his love of sailing, "learning the ropes" on Sheepshead Bay.

After graduation Bill moved with his mother to Orlando, Florida. In order to support his mother during the Depression, Bill joined the Civilian Conservation Corps and was assigned to the Ocala National Forest with company 1420 CCC whose job it was to build access roads and fire lanes in the Forest. Later Bill worked in various places in Tampa, including union work in the cigar factories there.

Bill and Virginia (Sue) Allen met in Tampa. They were married in Winter Park, Florida, in 1940. From 1936 until 1983 Bill worked in restaurant sales and design in Jacksonville. He felt it was his duty to join the military effort in World War II ( he once said, "Sue was the Quaker, I wasn't then") and served in both the European and Asian theaters, 1943-1946. He was discharged in time to be home for the birth of his twin daughters, Carol and Joan.

Bill joined the Religious Society of Friends in 1948. He and Sue were members of Jacksonville Monthly Meeting, and entertained traveling Friends who were visiting Florida. They joined with other Friends living in Florida to create what is now Southeastern Yearly Meeting. Bill served as Clerk of the initial conference in the 1950's and 1960s, and then as clerk of the Yearly Meeting in the 1970's and as recently as 1981.

The Peace Testimony of Friends became a concern of Bill's. He undertook to advise and counsel members of the military who developed conscientious objections to waging and preparing for war. He also refrained from doing any restaurant equipment business with the military bases in Jacksonville.

In 1983 Bill and Sue moved from Jacksonville to John Knox Village in Tampa to be near Sue's brother and sister-in-law, John and Grace Allen. (John Allen was the first president of the University of South Florida. 1957-1970.) At John Knox Village Bill developed a Current Events program which he conducted for many years. He enjoyed the challenge of presenting world and national events in an even-handed way. His contributions to the "Lite and Lively" column in the Village News. brought a chuckle to many who read them, and were fondly remembered by residents who spoke at his memorial service.

Bill had an abiding love for family and good friends. He especially enjoyed being with

children, and focused on First Day School activities and storytelling at meetings for worship and in First Day School sessions, first in Jacksonville and then in Tampa.

Bill's heart was broken when Sue died from the effects of an automobile accident in 1995, and again when his daughter, Joan, died from cancer in 1998. These unexpected deaths caused him to really examine his own life and to draw from deep within himself the energy to carry on. He enjoyed regular visits with Carol and her husband Peter Letson, his two grandchildren, Ann and Fred Letson, and his niece Kay Greenleaf.

Throughout his life Bill thought deeply about the best way to live his life following his own principles and faith. His beliefs shaped his relationship with all that touched his life. His thoughtful comments would help others to think about an issue or a challenge in a new way. He would often be able to open up a different perspective for others with a few well chosen words.

(More information on Bill's service in the early years of Southeastern Yearly Meeting may be found in "Quakers Discover the Southeast", written by Sue Greenleaf and Caroline Nicholson Jacob, printed in 1981.)

Attachment 4:

An Epistle from Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns  
The Summit Conference Center at Haw River State Park  
Greensboro, North Carolina

February 18, 2007

To All Friends Everywhere;

Once again, we are called to testify to the love we find moving among us. It is a testimony of radical inclusion. It is a cause of great pain to our corporate body to know that there are some Friends for whom our message is deeply disturbing; indeed, apparently, in contravention of their strongly held beliefs. It would gladden our hearts if Friends could soften their hearts to hear us out.

We met here in Greensboro, North Carolina, in this land rich in Friends' history, hoping to forge new connections across the spectrum of Quakers practicing a living faith tradition, a tradition with currents in the history of the civil rights movements and the movement for religious freedom. We numbered over 100 adults and a rich and lively mix of "little Friends," "young Friends" and "young adult Friends" as well. In the midst of winter, we noticed the beginning shoots of the crocus outside our plenary building, a sign of the promise of New Life and continued growth. Friends with histories in programmed, un-programmed, and semi-programmed branches of Quakerism came together to share our faith in continuing revelation and our desire to go beyond our separateness into the fullness of our communion.

After dinner together on Friday evening, we were welcomed by the planning committee of North Carolina Friends who had invited us here to experience the diversity of Friends in this region. After the welcoming, we watched a video titled, "Can We All Be Friends?" a question many of us had on our minds coming to this weekend. Are the differences between Friends so deep we cannot talk with each other, learn from each other? Are we willing to be in communion with each other, open to our differences yet secure in the one Spirit that calls us all to be Friends?

After our opening worship together on Saturday morning, we heard a talk by Max Carter, Director of both Friends Center and Quaker studies at Guilford College. Max spoke of the rich heritage of five different branches of Quakerism in this region. With humor, Max pointed out some of the differences within Friends, today and throughout history. As he talked, many of us began to smile at the differences between us Friends. We marveled at learning a history of Friends that some of us were unaware of (Fighting Quakers and Quaker General Nathaniel Greene!), and began to sense some of what unites us as Friends, but also to acknowledge some of the real differences we have as Friends. We were reminded that to reach real unity of Spirit requires an acknowledgement of our differences before we attempt to seek a Way beyond our differences.

We began each day, as is our practice, with worship. For many of us, our First Day worship was the first time we had experienced the richness of semi-programmed worship, in a worship service led by re-

tired pastor Willie Frye. Willie and his wife Agnes Frye are old friends and allies of Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns. Willie thanked us for being here and reaching out, and called on us to continue to reach out by sharing our light with the world. He pointed out what we all know because we have grown up as different: It is easier to demonize those you do not know. Bigotry requires ignorance and thrives on separateness. The process of coming out, no matter how painful—for ourselves, for our families, for those around us—is an essential witness to the truth of our lives, and our love.

Some of our first messages in worship were about fear, our own fears and the fears others have of us. In his prepared message, “How To Love In A World of Hate,” Willie pointed out that it is so much easier to understand our own fear of others than it is for us to understand their fear of us. He also urged us to seek for the “third way” that Jesus talked about, the way that goes beyond our differences and into an area to which Spirit is calling us all. By getting beyond our differences, we dare to believe that we can bring about a Kingdom of God on earth, where we transcend our differences, not ignoring our disagreements, but finding a way to go through them and beyond our fears. We recognize that this is not easy work, but have faith that this is our work, and it is work that we cannot rightly lay down.

On Saturday night we joined for a Fireside Chat, a panel of Friends from different branches of Quakerism talking of their history and movement through the different kinds of Friends. We were especially moved to hear from a North Carolina Friend who talked of her struggle to reconcile Jesus’ radical love with a history of Friends’ participation in discrimination and oppression. One Friend from Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) talked of her struggles with marriage equality, but more importantly shared with us her personal journey, begun when an Epistle Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (then called Friends for Lesbian and Gay Concerns) came to her Yearly Meeting. We had wondered those many years ago when we drafted our epistle whether conservative yearly meetings would even read our epistle. It seems our prayers had been answered. A third Friend shared his experiences of discovering he was gay, though married with children, as both he and his wife sought support from their Meeting, as many other divorced Friends had done. A fourth Friend shared her history with evangelical churches and her experience in Oregon where she helped folks get beyond hurtful language so that they could talk with each other. She spoke of living in a world so violent that even our speech is militarized and of trying to overcome that violence by “Opening Hearts and Minds.” She urged us in a talk the next day to “Listen, Affirm, Respond, and Add to the discussion.”

On Sunday night we had another Fireside Chat around the past, present and future of equality struggles. We heard about historical struggles and personal history. Willie and Agnes Frye spoke in moving terms of their deep, painful struggle around their support of FLGBTQC and their gay son. Also, a young adult Friend spoke of the struggle of being faithful to God’s call and the emerging ministry she carries. Their words gave us a glimpse of the power of living Truth and were followed a lesbian Friend who spoke of her struggle to answer her deeply felt call to ministry within North Carolina Yearly Meeting

(FUM). This was followed by a presentation by Peterson Toscano, “Queer 101.” With laughter, we were brought back to the importance and the radical idea that being who we are called to be can change the world!

At the end of our brief time together, we have discerned a deep truth: that we have been given a taste of being called to table, a table to which Jesus called all people -- including the despised: prostitutes, tax collectors, fishermen, priests, women and children--people who somehow would find the faith that love is stronger than hatred and would learn that non-violence must be practiced in deed, as well as word.

We go forth from this weekend with the joy of having spent time with many different kinds of Friends. We also carry with us the pain of knowing that other Friends who were invited either could not or would not join us. We acknowledge our own responsibility for some of this, and for the fact that our community does not seem theologically “safe” to some Christians. We continue to struggle as a community with radical inclusiveness and our own continuing-to-be-revealed form of Quakerism. We continue to commit ourselves to not to let our language, our ignorance, or our own unconscious racism separate us from each other and commit ourselves to seek for deeper unity.

We also share with Friends everywhere the irony of this weekend, that our desire to experience One Spirit was first met with exclusion. When we sought for this gathering to use Quaker Lake Camp here in North Carolina, owned by North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM), we were denied the use of the camp. We do not respond with rage or anger, but with deep sadness. Who knows how deep our wounding? We acknowledge our sadness that in many respects it feels like 35 years ago when lesbian and gay Friends first came together to show a presence in the Friends community and to say, “We are your brothers, your sisters, your husbands, your wives, your pastors, your sons, your daughters, and your Friends. Let us rejoice in our diversity!” Friends, there is much work yet to be done to bring us all to Jesus’ table.

And we conclude by acknowledging our deep appreciation of the gifts of support by those North Carolina Monthly Meetings who were able to be with us in love and support and who helped to make this gathering so spiritually rich and deep! You have given us your gift of love and we send love in return! Please consider joining us for worship and fellowship when we next gather as a part of Friends General Conference Summer Gathering in River Falls, Wisconsin, June 30 – July 7, 2007.

Attachment 5:  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
FCNL Report to SEYM submitted by Dana Putney

As always, it has been a busy year for FCN and thousands of voices engaged in our work across the nation. It was a year of setting new legislative priorities to direct our work with a new Congress. Two hundred thirty-seven (237) Quaker meetings, churches sent in their felt sense of what FCNL's priorities should be for the 110th Congress. After much sifting, listening and carefully shaping a document was brought to the annual meeting in November, 2006. On November 12, the final version of the legislative priorities for the 100<sup>th</sup> Congress was approved, and I encourage all of you to read it on the FCNL website if you have not already.

FCNL's network of voices is the core of its witness, and Friends' work to build the network is work that strengthens our witness. On the local level, Friends can help extend the network by planning outreach events to other faith groups, to peace groups, and to social activists. An FCNL event can be organized around a particular holiday like Tax Day or Earth Day. Monthly (or weekly!) letter writing gatherings are also a way to keep engagement strong within a monthly meeting. Make sure your meeting has a designated FCNL contact. Contacts get special mailings current information and action ideas. If you are an SEYM representative you are a member of the FCNL General Committee. Please attend the annual meeting in November. We will need "all hands on deck."

To those many Friends who felt called to witness to our elected officials, thank you for your light and for your hope, and know that FCNL is here to accompany you in that work.



Dear Friends of Southeastern Yearly Meeting,

***"For Friends the most important consideration is not the right action in itself but a right inward state out of which right action will arise. Given the right inward state right action is inevitable. Inward state and outward action are component parts of a single whole."***

(Howard Brinton, 1943)

Since our Gathering in 2005, Southeastern Yearly Meeting (SEYM) has been in on-going discernment over SEYM's relationship with Friends United Meeting (FUM). On this concern, where do Friends find unity? Do we find way open to remain affiliated with FUM, to disaffiliate from FUM or for another or third way? I would gently remind Friends that the discernments posted on the SEYM website are not part of a voting process and that representatives to the working group described below, as well as SEYM as a whole, remain open to continuing revelation.

In order to facilitate our continued discernment during Yearly Meeting this year, I have called together a working group that will meet during the Gathering. I appreciate that one or two representatives from most meetings are serving on the group. Just as committees within yearly meeting and monthly meetings season complex issues before bringing a minute to meeting for business for further discernment and action, so the working group will continue the spiritual discernment begun by meetings and worship groups. Members will compose a minute to be brought forward to SEYM Friends as a body during our meeting for worship for business session Saturday afternoon, April 7.

I am grateful to Tampa Monthly Meeting for suggesting the addition of this working group as an aid to SEYM's discernment process and to Karen Putney, Tampa Monthly Meeting, for being the convener. I felt the Spirit moving in those actions as well as in the faithful laboring of meetings and worship groups and the loving dedication of our representatives to FUM.

I ask that you hold all of us in Southeastern Yearly Meeting and Friends United Meeting in the wholeness of God's tender love as we search deeply.

Susan Taylor  
Clerk, SEYM

Attachment 6B: F.U.M. GENERAL BOARD MEETINGS AND MISSION VISITS TO AFRICA  
FEBRUARY 2 THROUGH FEBRUARY 14, 2007

PART I - THE TRIP TO KENYA AND UGANDA:

Kenya is twice the size of Italy and Uganda not quite the size of England. We spent two days in Uganda and the rest of the time in Kenya. They are beautiful countries filled with beautiful people, who are usually rather soft spoken, friendly, eager for cross-cultural communication, very resourceful, slow to become frustrated and somewhat naïve about histories and events outside Africa. Kenyans shake hands when they are introduced and often afterward when they greet one another during the day. We used a lot of Purell surreptitiously, ever on guard against unfamiliar germs. The people we met, especially the men, have the ability to introduce humor into almost every situation and laugh a lot. They do have good newspapers and, when they have access to a TV, can see an international version of CNN. The Kenyans are very proud of Barak Obama and watch carefully any news about him.

The Kenyan Shilling is improving. To round things out we figured \$1.50 for every Ksh100. Leather sandals cost \$8.00, 4 yards of fabric \$4.00 or \$5.00 and the seamstress charged us \$12.00 to make a dress to order. As the Ksh improves, the value of foreign aid dollars decreases so a grant that may be worth Ksh10,000.00 when it is written is often worth less by the time it is processed and arrives in Kenya.

Most of the country is in an agrarian age, pre-industrial revolution, without running water, electricity or machinery and, in many places, without schools or medical care within walking distance. If they are lucky, there is a bore hole (well) that has not run dry that they can use.

The roads are mostly packed red clay and the main asphalt roads across the country are called "tarmac". People walk, walk, walk all over the countryside, the women often carrying large bundles of firewood, groceries, jugs, etc on their heads. Paint is at a premium so the whole country looks old and worn and covered in red dust. If Kenyans are not walking they are catching a ride on an overcrowded mini-bus or ride a bicycle. There are thousands of bicycles all over the place and all the same style man's bike made in China. In the towns men decorate the passenger seat on the back and give rides; the taxi bike is then called a boda-boda.

Here were 27 of us from North America. We rode mostly in a school bus and sometimes a mini-van. The drivers were unflappable and drove us over hill and dale, far into the bush, chopping trees when they were in the way and turning around in impossibly small places. Everywhere we went men, women and children all stared open mouthed and many waved, like we were celebrities. Some of the roadside businesses we saw most often were fruit and vegetable stands, brick making, charcoal making and bicycle repair.

The people we had contact with in the Western provinces of Kenya were mostly from the Luhya tribe but also Luo, Kikuyu, Samburu and Turkana. The Quakers in Kenya number approximately 134,000, in Uganda 3500, in USA 119,000, in Britain 16,000, Canada 1155, and Guatemala 20,000. The number of orphans number in the millions. In our travels we noticed untold numbers of "Friends Schools" signs, some of which I do not think are even affiliated with any particular Quaker organization, although FUM is doing its best to bring them under their umbrella. Kenya has 15 Yearly Meetings and the Friends schools make up 40% of all the schools in Kenya.

The buildings of the “schools” and so-called “hospitals” were usually rectangular or square brick buildings with openings for doors and windows. The schools we visited were barren and lacked furniture and supplies that we take for granted. It is every child’s wish to go to school but, even though the education is “free” parents must pay for the school fees and for uniforms. Many children can never afford to go to school. At the schools we visited, they greeted us with much ceremony and music which was lovely. The children shrieked with excitement and some even trembled, they were so beside themselves with emotion. When I asked why were they so excited to see us I was told, “Because they think you will make their life better”. At one school the little girls curtsied every time they shook our hands. It felt like a royal visit in the colonial days.

The two “hospitals” (Lugulu and Kaimosi) recently taken under the care of FUM were built in the colonial era and have not been maintained since independence. Everything portable was stolen. Patients wait on the grass or on a bench, sanitation appears almost non-existent, the window openings not only have no glass but no screens. They lack equipment to do proper diagnostics and lack funds to pay for adequate staff. Their employees are “underutilized” because they do not have the wherewithal to do what they are trained for. At one hospital patients need to walk or be carried because it has no ambulance. All the buildings leak so computers etc need to be covered with a tarp. Patients need family to stay and care for them because they lack adequate nursing staff. Although the patients were very gracious about allowing us through, it was more than I could handle. My imagination had billions of exotic germs swirling about me and my sensibilities about staring at them like they were on exhibit was bothersome.

The orphanage we visited cares for 42 children who have no belongings at all and wash their own clothes “when they feel it is time”. They do get three meals a day and go to school so, compared to the conditions from which they came, this is a pleasure. Hard to fathom . . . This orphanage is supported by FWCC and New England YM.

The one place that was lovely, well kept and well supplied was Friends Theological College where they held the dedication of their brand new beautiful chapel / meetinghouse to coincide with our trip. FTC is a seminary that has educated and trained dozens of pastors to evangelize throughout their country, set up churches and increase membership. FTC is a lovely place with a new chapel, several buildings in good condition including a library and an active and viable board of directors. So many of those present at the General Board meetings were graduates of this school. FTC is not a liberal arts college in the traditional American sense.

I went with two people not on the Board to a woman’s conference for women who are being empowered to take control of their own lives by using micro-grants (\$5000.00 or less) from Right Sharing of World Resources. One person who came with me was Nancy Irving, head of FWCC and we were met by Roland Kreager, director of Right Sharing. Many of the women there were widows or abused wives or women caring for orphans and they described their successful projects like buying some goats or chickens or a cow or a sewing machine and they liked that they were taught how to keep good records and pay off loans. I would like to give money to Right Sharing.

Away from the few main towns and cities, people live in round thatched huts called kisibi (pl) or kasubi (sing). The thatched roofs are made from spear grass and the walls from hand made red clay bricks on a twig frame. Families live in small compounds with anywhere from one to five huts, depending on the size of the family and the ability to make them. They usually keep a few goats, maybe chickens or cows and grow a garden with cassava, potatoes, greens, bananas and

papaya. The two tools they use for almost everything is a machete and a wide blade with wooden handle for tilling (actually chopping into the earth). The latter looks like a cross between a pick axe and a hoe. The women do most all of the work. The men, if they are lucky, tend the cows or have a job; otherwise they “protect the family”. Actually, we did see several men tilling plots of soil too.

I noticed philanthropies all over the country, many of them foreign NGOs (non-govt. organizations). They come from all over Europe and Asia as well as North America and include many religious organizations as well as non-sectarian groups. We met in our travels Doctors Without Borders going to Somalia, people from a New England community helping to paint a little building for offices and looking for other possible projects. We took them with us to a hospital and an orphanage.

I loved every minute of this fascinating and informative trip (other than the business meeting) and would return in a heartbeat to work in a school or orphanage were it not so expensive to get to. Because FUM used some “connections” and contributed monies, the trip only cost us each \$2400.00 plus nearly \$300.00 for vaccinations and pills but for an individual the cost would be significantly higher.

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## PART II - FUM GENERAL BOARD MEETINGS:

Only two days were devoted to meetings of the General Board. They were attended by about 20 North American General Board members, approximately 50 African General Board members, 5 FUM staff members and maybe 5 or 6 others. The African part of the General Board was created only two years ago and it seemed to me that their membership is still superficial, since almost all activity is orchestrated from Richmond Hill in Indiana. The work that was done on the Strategic Plan in Richmond last year was presented to the Kenyans and Ugandans only on the day of the meeting. The charts were sometimes difficult for us to follow so I know they had difficulty understanding what was taking place.

In the committee in which I participated (Identity of FUM) the clerk tried to create a worshipful atmosphere but that technique seemed lost on the Africans. They lectured and preached at us well into the late hours, citing the Bible chapter and verse and it very nearly became a debate. Our committee was never able to complete the task before us, although all the other three committees (Leadership, Evangelism, Communications) did finish early. There was no sense of being committed to working this out nor attempting to find a comfort zone in which we might reach unity. It was a power struggle in which the prevailing opinion was that this is what FUM is, has always been and should continue to be.

There were four of us from dually affiliated YMs (NY, New England, Baltimore and SEYM) and 15 from FUM programmed YMs. The programmed meetings in North America and Africa see FUM as the titular head of their church and are comfortable deferring to the FUM Faith and Practice (which I have never seen). They do not understand how or why we ever came into membership since our own F&P is so in conflict with theirs. They made it very clear that Scripture is their source of authority and never was any mention made of recognizing that some Friends look to the Inward Light for leading. It felt exactly like the same struggle that took place in the splits of 1827 and 1845 between those who “emphasized the outward scriptures and those who emphasized inward mystical experience” (Brinton). One Friend opined that without an outward authority there would be chaos. The majority of those persons there believed that the right thing to do to settle the question was to affirm the Richmond Declaration.

Anyway, at close to 10:00 that night, after we had been laboring with the sexual ethics portion of the personnel policy of FUM since early morning, a soft-spoken Kenyan said, **“My people are perishing while you squabble”**. His people were perishing while we pressed our individual agendas! A light in my mind struck me with such an impact that I was moved to tears. I saw in my mind that we were preventing FUM from moving forward and asked myself could this possibly be God’s will? If not, it was painfully clear to me that this was the sense of the meeting and clear to the clerk as well. So, as much he was opposed to it, he needed to agree to bring it to the business meeting the next day.

That night I went over what I could have said or should have said and asked again long into the night if this might in some way be God’s will. Since I don’t know the whole picture, don’t know all of what happened in the past and cannot know what is in the future, I cannot know how this might fit into the grand scheme of things. Only God knows.

The business meeting of the entire General Board the next day went as expected. It was not a meeting for worship with a concern for business. The Kenyans and one Ugandan spoke passionately about all the directives in the Bible which they interpret to ban homosexuality and one even went so far as to say that homosexuals and their supporters should be killed. Nobody in the FUM leadership said one thing against his remarks and not one person remarked that what was occurring was not in the manner of Friends. I think we were all too stunned and it happened so fast and, because I was so distraught, I don’t remember everything that was said. I think that my naiveté stemmed in part from the Oct meetings when we liberal Friends left our comfort zone by agreeing to affirm the pamphlet, “The Christian Faith of Friends” by Ben Richmond, believing that the others in return were willing to attempt unity. This felt like we had been lulled by a technique used to buy time.

After having listened for two days I said to the entire assembly, with tears flowing, something like this. “We have preached and lectured at one another for two days and not one person has moved off square one. Because I believe so strongly in Quaker process and am always asking Friends to let go of any pre-conceived notion about what the outcome should be, I cannot in all good conscience stand in the way when it does not go my way. When a Friend said that his people are perishing while we squabble, my heart was moved. Perhaps in His wisdom, this is what God wants for the greatest good for the greatest number of people. I don’t know”. I was so distraught that I could hardly finish. Finally the minute was approved, although it felt more like a motion had been carried according to Robert’s Rules of Order.

When the session ended, a Kenyan man sat next to me and held me in his arms with a long comforting hug. Another Kenyan asked me what had actually happened and a Kenyan woman came to each of us with kisses on both cheeks asking God to bless and comfort us. Then I spent some time speaking with a Kenyan man who sat next to me and said that this should never have happened. He went on to say that we should have talked and prayed about this, even if it took 20 years, “because to God 20 years is nothing”. After speaking with several delightful loving Kenyans, I realized that they thirst for information and I agreed to send them some books about Quakersim as we know it. We ended our little talk agreeing that maybe the Kenyans would end up being the peacemakers. I could not help loving them.

That evening, before they let the watch-dogs loose and we had to be in our rooms, five of us had Meeting for Worship With a Concern for Healing. I needed it badly to help me move out of a

place of hurt and anger and back to a place of inner peace. I felt such gratitude for the love among us - Friends from Baltimore, New York and New England.

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### PART III - COMMENTS AND MY OPINIONS:

From the discussion that took place when we had that small meeting for worship, we came to believe that the entire scenario had been pre-planned and well orchestrated. One specific incident that convinced me was when, in the last business meeting, a long-time FUM leader from our committee suggested that we affirm the Richmond Declaration he was not specific about when this should happen. A few minutes later, while other hands were still up and his was not, the clerk went back to him and asked him if he meant that it should happen “right now”. Of course the crowd called for it to happen right then and there and so it did. We concluded that the clerk had known that it was supposed to take place while in Africa when the more conservative YMs had an overwhelming majority. We also felt that the Africans had been “used” to push for approval of something they did not all understand fully.

I think some of the Kenyans were bothered by what had happened. However, I do not look for them to rock the boat, as much as they understand our plight, because they are in dire need of whatever assistance FUM can bring to their people and they cannot afford to alienate anyone right now.

I craved some silent worship and time for discernment after hearing so many sermons, lectures and vocal prayer. I have a sense that most of those present have had little exposure to some of the basic principles that we take for granted – that God is directly accessible to all persons, there is that of God in everyone, our final leadings come from direct experiences of God, that Scriptures are understood on that backdrop and the concept of continuing revelation. When I was chatting with the young man who was our mini-bus driver, we spoke about some of the different strands of Quakerism. He said, “Oh. You’re a George Fox Quaker!”.

The Friends churches in Africa seem to be more closely related to Protestant churches than to Quakerism as we know it. (Coincidentally, I was told that when Kenyan Quakers immigrate to the US, they usually join a Baptist church.)

It appears that FUM puts the major portion of their resources into their mission: “. . . energize and equip Friends through the power of the Holy Spirit to gather people into fellowship where Jesus Christ is known, loved and obeyed as Teacher and Lord.” (Evangelism) The organization uses their magazine and book press (Communications), the theological college (Leadership Training) and the Africa Ministries Office (Global Partnerships) to accomplish this primary mission. FUM employees are missionaries.

I think the majority of the FUM Board would be glad if we would just go away and let them do their work. I think they were pleased that they had been successful in having the Richmond Declaration re-affirmed, even though it ignores over 100 years of social, scientific and intellectual progress. When I asked what would happen if the five dually affiliated YMs disaffiliated, I was told, “Don’t worry. We’ll take up the slack”. Baltimore has been withholding funds so FUM has learned to live without those. Our contribution doesn’t amount to much .

It feels hypocritical to take into membership and accept monies from gay and lesbian and etc Friends while still believing that these Friends are less than equal and, in many cases, evil sinners. They still believe that homosexuality is something that someone does, not was a person is.

Before we all parted ways, the Presiding Clerk spoke to me and expressed his wish that I would return because my contribution was valuable. I expressed to him that I was not at all certain what the future holds but that I wanted him to know that, by not speaking out against the ministry of violence against gays and lesbians, FUM was an enabler that was enabling violence against those people. I likened it to a wife who covers up her husband's alcoholism and thus enables it to continue.

I would also like to contribute to an effort that sends Quaker literature to Kenyan and Ugandan Friends – books like “Barclay’s Apology”, Brinton’s “Friends for 350 Years”, our own Faith and Practice or perhaps the one from Philadelphia or Britain, etc.

I mentioned to a Baltimore YM Friend that I was uncomfortable with all the ritual, the bowing and curtsying. I said it felt colonial, like I was the queen coming to view her subjects. He agreed that he had some of those same feelings.

If we remain affiliated, I believe we should commit the monies to do so authentically by sending the same person or persons to attend all the meetings over a period of time. The FUM General Board is a decision making body that affects policy and procedure and sporadic attendance is more of a hindrance that it is helpful. The General Board meets three times a year in Richmond Indiana. The cost of room, board and transportation for each trip from West Palm Beach is \$700.00.

Finally, the most astounding thing happened in the last minutes before we all parted ways. For the past year I have been painfully aware of an outspoken conservative Friend who seemed angry and appeared not committed to harmony. She was the one who told me at my very first meeting last June that SEYM and other liberal YMs were sabotaging FUM efforts to raise sufficient funds to stay afloat by our constantly diverting attention to a discussion about homosexuality. At breakfast in Kenya one day she said that she would rather be shot in the head than allow any change in the FUM personnel policy. Therefore it is not surprising that I was left speechless when she said to me, with tears in her eyes, “I want to tell you how much I admire you. You have something I wish I had. I just needed to say that.” And then she left.

I hope I have been able to present the facts without planting a suggestion about what is our leading. I don't know if we are supposed to commit the funds to hang in and witness to our truth for probably the next 20 years or if we would accomplish more in the long run by disaffiliating.

Lisa Stewart,  
Palm Beach Monthly Meeting  
February 20, 2007

## Attachment 7 - Nominating Committee Report

**OFFICERS**

|                                |                 |                   |      |                  |                  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------|------------------|------------------|
| Yearly Meeting Clerk           | Susan Taylor    | Tallahassee       | 2008 |                  |                  |
| Assistant Clerk                | Sybil Brennan   | Gainesville       | 2008 |                  |                  |
| Interim Business Meeting Clerk | Nancy Fennell   | Ft. Myers         | 2008 |                  |                  |
| Recording Clerk                | Ed Lesnick      | Orlando           | 2009 |                  |                  |
| Treasurer                      | Neil Andersen   | Tallahassee       | 2008 |                  |                  |
| Membership Recorder            | Phoebe Andersen | Tallahassee       | 2010 |                  |                  |
| Trustees                       | Herb Haigh      | St. Pete.         | 2010 |                  |                  |
|                                | Cathy Gaskill   | Deland            | 2008 |                  |                  |
|                                | Mimi McAdoo     | Sarasota          | 2010 |                  |                  |
|                                | Jim Weston      | Sarasota          | 2009 |                  |                  |
|                                | Carl Hersh      | Miami             | 2008 |                  |                  |
|                                | Al Webber       | Ft. Myers         | 2009 |                  |                  |
|                                | Treasurer       | <i>ex officio</i> |      |                  |                  |
| Young Friends Clerks           | Amy Carlie      | Orlando           | 2010 | Nicole Dominquez | Gainesville 2010 |
|                                |                 |                   |      | Alan Schmalstig  | Orlando 2010     |
| Young Friends Recording Clerk  | David Hersh     | Miami             | 2010 |                  |                  |

**COMMITTEES****Archives**

|               |                |      |
|---------------|----------------|------|
| Bill Rapp     | Lake Wales     | 2010 |
| Cathy Gaskill | Orlando-Deland | 2010 |
| Peter Day     | Clearwater     | 2010 |
| Kay Lesnick   | Orlando        | 2010 |
| Connie Ray    | Gainesville    | 2010 |
| Mark Grantham | St. Petersburg | 2010 |

**Faith and Practice**

|                        |             |      |
|------------------------|-------------|------|
| Phoebe Andersen, Clerk | Tallahassee | 2010 |
| Cathy Gaskill          | Deland      | 2010 |
| Vickie Carlie          | Orlando     | 2010 |
| Connie Ray             | Gainesville | 2008 |
| Jim Weston             | Sarasota    | 2008 |

**Finance**

|                        |                   |      |
|------------------------|-------------------|------|
| Caroline Lanker, Clerk | Tampa             | 2010 |
| YM Treasurer           | <i>ex officio</i> |      |
| YM Secretary           | <i>ex officio</i> |      |
| Clerk of Trustees      | <i>ex officio</i> |      |
| Assistant Clerk        | <i>ex officio</i> |      |

**Half-Yearly Meeting**

|                         |       |      |
|-------------------------|-------|------|
| Karyn Begin, Clerk      | Miami | 2009 |
| Andrea Walsh, Registrar | Tampa | 2009 |

**Nominating**

|                   |                |      |
|-------------------|----------------|------|
| Dan Vaughn, Clerk | Deland         | 2008 |
| Mary Jo Klingel   | Ft. Lauderdale | 2010 |
| Laura Widefordner | Gainesville    | 2008 |
| Fern Mayo         | Sarasota       | 2008 |
|                   |                | 2008 |

**Pro Nica Board**

|                  |                |      |
|------------------|----------------|------|
| Al Webber, Clerk | Ft. Myers      | 2010 |
| Barbara Wolfe    | Tampa          | 2008 |
| Herb Haigh       | St. Petersburg | 2009 |

**Peace and Social Concerns**

|                     |                |      |
|---------------------|----------------|------|
| Becky Steele, Clerk | St. Petersburg | 2008 |
| Al Geiger           | Jacksonville   | 2010 |
| Shawna Doran        | St. Petersburg | 2010 |
| Steve Kinney        | Tampa          | 2008 |
| Jack Bradin         | Palm Beach     | 2010 |
| Ed Hotchkiss        | St. Petersburg | 2010 |
| Warren Hoskins      | Miami          | 2010 |
| Cecilia Yocum       | Tampa          | 2008 |

**Worship & Ministry**

|                          |              |      |
|--------------------------|--------------|------|
| Wendy Geiger, Co-Clerk   | Jacksonville | 2009 |
| Barbara French, Co-Clerk | Ft. Myers    | 2009 |
| Fern Mayo                | Sarasota     | 2010 |
| Ruth Dickinson           | Palm Beach   | 2009 |
| Mimi McAdoo              | Sarasota     | 2010 |
| Rebecca Miles            | Tampa        | 2010 |
| Nancy Triscitti          | Tampa        | 2010 |
| Kody Hersh               | Miami        | 2009 |
| Tom Fennell              | Ft. Myers    | 2009 |

**Yearly Meeting Gathering**

|                     |                |      |
|---------------------|----------------|------|
| Steve Kinney, Clerk | Tampa          | 2009 |
| Jack Bradin         | Palm Beach     | 2010 |
| Ellie Caldwell      | Palm Beach     | 2010 |
| Eileen Zangaro      | Clearwater     | 2008 |
| Connie Hotchkiss    | St. Petersburg | 2010 |

**Youth Committee**

|                |            |      |
|----------------|------------|------|
| Kathy Hersh    | Miami      | 2010 |
| Javier del sol | Palm Beach | 2008 |



## REPRESENTATIVES TO ORGANIZATIONS

### **American Friends Service Com Corp (NATIONAL)**

|                   |             |      |
|-------------------|-------------|------|
| Petra Doan, Board | Tallahassee | 2009 |
| David Robinson    | Space Coast | 2008 |

### **AFSC - SE Region**

|                 |             |      |
|-----------------|-------------|------|
| Annie McPherson | Gainesville | 2008 |
| Andrew Jason    | Miami       | 2010 |

### **AFSC - SE Region - EMAP**

|                   |                |      |
|-------------------|----------------|------|
| Mary Jo Klingel   | Ft. Lauderdale | 2009 |
| Laura Winefordner | Gainesville    | 2009 |

### **Friends Committee on National Legislation/ Wm Penn House**

|             |            |      |
|-------------|------------|------|
| Jack Bradin | Palm Beach | 2010 |
| Frank Perch | Savannah   | 2010 |
| Lou Putney  | Tampa      | 2008 |
| Dana Putney | Tampa      | 2009 |

### **Quaker Earth Care Witness**

|                 |                |      |
|-----------------|----------------|------|
| Mary Jo Klingel | Ft. Lauderdale | 2010 |
| Jack Bradin     | Palm Beach     | 2010 |

### **Friends General Conference Central Committee**

|                |                |      |
|----------------|----------------|------|
| Herb Haigh     | St. Petersburg | 2010 |
| Kody Hersh     | Miami          | 2008 |
| Liz Kamphausen | Tallahassee    | 2009 |

### **Friends United Meeting General Board/Commissions**

|                 |             |      |
|-----------------|-------------|------|
| Phoebe Andersen | Tallahassee | 2008 |
| Lisa Stewart    | Palm Beach  | 2010 |

### **Friends United Meeting Triennial**

|                        |             |      |
|------------------------|-------------|------|
| Devender Braly-Sellers | Gainesville | 2009 |
| Neil Anderson          | Tallahassee | 2009 |
|                        |             | 2009 |
|                        |             | 2009 |
|                        |             | 2009 |

### **Friends World Committee for Consultation**

|                |             |      |
|----------------|-------------|------|
| Ellie Caldwell | Palm Beach  | 2010 |
| Sybil Brennan  | Gainesville | 2009 |
| Fern Mayo      | Sarasota    | 2010 |

### **Florida Council of Churches**

|                  |         |      |
|------------------|---------|------|
| Richard McCleery | Halifax | 2010 |
|------------------|---------|------|

### **FLGBTQC**

|            |       |      |
|------------|-------|------|
| Kody Hersh | Miami | 2009 |
|------------|-------|------|

### **Pendle Hill**

#### **Quaker UN Office**

|                         |             |      |
|-------------------------|-------------|------|
| Laura & Jim Winefordner | Gainesville | 2007 |
|-------------------------|-------------|------|

#### **Friends Peace Teams**

|               |       |      |
|---------------|-------|------|
| Cecilia Yocum | Tampa | 2007 |
|---------------|-------|------|

#### **Quaker Cuba Project**

Inactive

#### **Florida Impact**

Inactive

#### **Information & Technology**

Consulting

#### **Committee**

##### **Website**

Sec. Lyn Cope

##### **Peace Website**

Michael Shell

#### **Publications & News Letter**

Inactive

#### **Meeting for Sufferings**

Inactive

#### **Religious Education**

Inactive

## Southeastern Yearly Meeting General Fund Budget

| Categories                                   | Budget 04-05     | Actual 04-05     | Budget 05-06     | Actual 05-06     | Budget 06-07     | Budget 07-08     | % change from 06-07 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                                |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                     |
| <b>Real Income to General Fund</b>           |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                     |
| 2002 Individual Donations                    | \$ 7,895         | \$ 6,514         | \$ 2,500         | \$ 2,023         | \$ 2,825         | \$ 3,100         | 9.7%                |
| Individual Donations for FPT (note 1)        |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  | \$ 1,000         | new                 |
| 2203 Savings account interest                | \$ 150           | \$ 109           | \$ 80            | \$ 169           | \$ 120           | \$ 150           | 25.0%               |
| 2003 Meeting & Worship groups                | \$ 43,840        | \$ 43,299        | \$ 50,276        | \$ 48,177        | \$ 57,217        | \$ 63,010        | 10.1%               |
| Miscellaneous unbudgeted income              |                  | \$ 351           |                  | \$ 331           |                  |                  |                     |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                              | <b>\$ 51,885</b> | <b>\$ 50,274</b> | <b>\$ 52,856</b> | <b>\$ 50,700</b> | <b>\$ 60,162</b> | <b>\$ 67,260</b> | <b>11.8%</b>        |
| <b>Transfers from other accounts</b>         |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                     |
| 2820 Secretary's Fund (from Trustees Funds)  | \$ 4,132         | \$ 4,185         | \$ 4,290         | \$ 4,955         | \$ 5,390         | \$ 5,720         | 6.1%                |
| 2815 Outreach Travel (from Trustees Funds)   |                  | \$ 942           | \$ 1,870         | \$ 1,881         | \$ 1,980         | \$ 2,420         | 22.2%               |
| 2871 Interest-Mortgage (from Trustees Funds) | \$ 128           | \$ 147           | \$ 75            | \$ -             | \$ -             |                  |                     |
| 2712 From Michener Lecture for admin         | \$ -             |                  | \$ 100           | \$ 100           | \$ 100           | \$ 110           | 10.0%               |
| 2732 From Gathering for admin                | \$ -             |                  | \$ 700           | \$ 700           | \$ 700           | \$ 770           | 10.0%               |
| 2752 From HYM for admin                      | \$ -             | \$ 392           | \$ 365           | \$ 365           | \$ 365           | \$ 400           | 9.6%                |
| Carryover from 06-07 FUM line (note 4)       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  | \$ 1,200         | one time            |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                              | <b>\$ 4,260</b>  | <b>\$ 5,666</b>  | <b>\$ 7,400</b>  | <b>\$ 8,001</b>  | <b>\$ 8,535</b>  | <b>\$ 10,620</b> | <b>24.4%</b>        |
| <b>Total Income</b>                          | <b>\$ 56,145</b> | <b>\$ 55,940</b> | <b>\$ 60,256</b> | <b>\$ 58,701</b> | <b>\$ 68,697</b> | <b>\$ 77,880</b> | <b>13.4%</b>        |

| Categories            | Budget 04- Actual 04- Budget 05- Actual 05- Budget 06- |           |           |           |           | Budget 07-08 | % change        |
|-----------------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------------|
|                       | 05   | 05        | 06        | 06        | 07        |              |                 |
| <b>Expenditures</b>   |  |           |           |           |           |              |                 |
| <b>Administration</b> |  |           |           |           |           |              |                 |
| 3001                  | Bank Charges   | \$ 25     | \$ 19     | \$ 40     | \$ 12     | \$ 40        | \$ 20 -50.0%    |
| 3002                  | Credit Card Processing Fees                            |           | \$ 2      | \$ 24     | \$ 1      | \$ 10        | \$ 10 0.0%      |
| 3080                  | Duplication  | \$ 4,500  | \$ 3,507  | \$ 4,600  | \$ 4,105  | \$ 4,600     | \$ 4,600 0.0%   |
| 3146                  | Fee for Non-Profit Corp                                | \$ 65     | \$ 61     | \$ 65     | \$ 61     | \$ 62        | \$ 61 -1.6%     |
| 3106                  | Liability Insurance                                    |           | \$ 1,111  | \$ 1,550  | \$ 1,609  | \$ 1,550     | \$ 1,800 16.1%  |
| 3200                  | Office Supplies  | \$ 500    | \$ 445    | \$ 510    | \$ 509    | \$ 510       | \$ 520 2.0%     |
| 3270                  | Payroll expenses - Salary                              | \$ 25,750 | \$ 25,750 | \$ 26,523 | \$ 26,523 | \$ 36,423    | \$ 37,516 3.0%  |
| 3270                  | Payroll expenses - Benefits                            | in salary | in salary | in salary |           | in salary    | \$ 5,000 new    |
| 3270                  | Payroll expenses - Employer Taxes                      | \$ 1,970  | \$ 1,970  | \$ 2,029  | \$ 2,029  | \$ 2,786     | \$ 2,870 3.0%   |
| 3380                  | Postage  | \$ 1,600  | \$ 791    | \$ 1,600  | \$ 1,187  | \$ 1,600     | \$ 1,600 0.0%   |
| 3381                  | Post Office Box Rental                                 | \$ 50     |           | \$ 50     | \$ 48     | \$ 50        | \$ 48 -4.0%     |
| 3400                  | Office Equipment                                       | \$ 300    | \$ 300    | \$ 300    | \$ 150    | \$ 400       | \$ 400 0.0%     |
| 3500                  | Professional Svcs                                      | \$ 500    | \$ 334    | \$ 500    | \$ 122    | \$ 500       | \$ 400 -20.0%   |
| 3640                  | Office Rent/ Rental Unit                               | \$ 1,200  | \$ 1,200  | \$ 1,200  | \$ 1,200  | \$ 1,200     | \$ 1,200 0.0%   |
| 3700                  | Repairs  | \$ 100    |           | \$ 250    | \$ 69     | \$ 250       | \$ 350 40.0%    |
| 3816                  | Software   | \$ 150    | \$ 95     | \$ 350    | \$ 872    | \$ 500       | \$ 500 0.0%     |
| 3840                  | Telephone/Internet                                     | \$ 1,100  | \$ 1,059  | \$ 1,100  | \$ 1,072  | \$ 1,100     | \$ 1,100 0.0%   |
| 3860                  | Secretary Travel/Travel Administrative                 | \$ 1,050  | \$ 1,169  | \$ 1,050  | \$ 642    | \$ 1,050     | \$ 1,400 33.3%  |
| 3900                  | Website  | \$ 100    | \$ 119    | \$ 300    | \$ 819    | \$ 300       | \$ 400 33.3%    |
| 8500                  | Contingency  | \$ 500    |           | \$ 1,000  |           | \$ 1,000     | \$ 1,000 0.0%   |
|                       | Miscellaneous unbudgeted expenses                      |           |           |           | \$ 155    |              |                 |
| <b>Subtotal</b>       |  | \$ 39,460 | \$ 37,930 | \$ 43,041 | \$ 41,185 | \$ 53,932    | \$ 60,795 12.7% |
| <b>Committees</b>     |  |           |           |           |           |              |                 |
| 4309                  | Archivist  | \$ 50     |           | \$ 50     | \$ 15     | \$ 50        | \$ 50 0.0%      |
| 4339                  | Faith & Practice                                       | \$ 300    |           | \$ 300    | \$ 50     | \$ 300       | \$ 200 -33.3%   |
| 4349                  | Finance  | \$ 50     |           | \$ 100    | \$ -      | \$ 100       | \$ 50 -50.0%    |
| 4329                  | Executive Committee                                    | \$ 100    | \$ 96     | \$ 100    | \$ -      | \$ 100       | \$ 100 0.0%     |
| 4359                  | Nominating   | \$ 50     |           | \$ 50     | \$ -      | \$ 50        | \$ 50 0.0%      |
| 4369                  | Peace & Social Concerns                                | \$ 150    | \$ 100    | \$ 150    | \$ 100    | \$ 150       | \$ 150 0.0%     |
| none                  | ProNica (moved to donations)                           |           |           |           |           |              |                 |
| 4065                  | Publications   |           |           |           |           |              |                 |
| 4379                  | Religious Education                                    | \$ 50     | \$ 50     | inactive  | inactive  | inactive     |                 |
| 4399                  | Worship & Ministry                                     | \$ 150    | \$ 350    | \$ 500    | \$ 16     | \$ 100       | \$ 50 -50.0%    |
| 4389                  | Youth Committee  | \$ 50     |           | \$ 50     | \$ -      | \$ 50        | \$ 50 0.0%      |
| 4319                  | Cuban Quaker Project                                   | \$ 50     |           | \$ 50     | \$ -      | lay down     |                 |
| <b>Subtotal</b>       |  | \$ 1,000  | \$ 596    | \$ 1,350  | \$ 181    | \$ 900       | \$ 700 -22.2%   |

|                                      |                                    | Budget 04-05 | Actual 04-05 | Budget 05-06 | Actual 05-06 | Budget 06-07 | Budget 07-08 | % change |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| <b>Donations to Organizations</b>    |                                    |              |              |              |              |              |              |          |
| 5007                                 | AFSC                               | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | 0.0%     |
| 5008                                 | AFSC-SERO                          | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | 0.0%     |
| 5017                                 | Cuba YM-Havana Peace Coord.        | \$ 2,000     | \$ 2,000     | \$ 2,000     | \$ -         | discontinued |              |          |
| 5018                                 | Earlham School of Religion         | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | 0.0%     |
| 5027                                 | FCNL                               | \$ 300       | \$ 300       | \$ 300       | \$ 300       | \$ 300       | \$ 300       | 0.0%     |
| 5028                                 | QEW                                | \$ 125       | \$ 125       | \$ 125       | \$ 125       | \$ 125       | \$ 125       | 0.0%     |
| 5037                                 | FGC                                | \$ 1,200     | \$ 1,200     | \$ 1,200     | \$ 1,200     | \$ 1,200     | \$ 1,200     | 0.0%     |
| 5038                                 | FL Coal for P & J                  | \$ 60        | \$ 60        | \$ 60        | \$ 60        | \$ 60        | \$ 60        | 0.0%     |
| 5047                                 | FL Council of Churches             | \$ 200       | \$ 300       | \$ 200       | \$ 200       | \$ 200       | \$ 200       | 0.0%     |
| 5048                                 | Florida Impact                     | \$ 300       | \$ 300       | \$ 300       | \$ 300       | \$ 300       | \$ 300       | 0.0%     |
| 5057                                 | Friends Journal                    | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | 0.0%     |
| 5058                                 | Friends Peace Teams (note 1)       | \$ 250       | \$ 500       | \$ 250       | \$ 250       | \$ 250       | \$ 1,250     | 400.0%   |
| 5067                                 | FUM (note 2)                       | \$ 1,200     | \$ 1,200     | \$ 1,200     | \$ 1,200     | \$ 1,200     | \$ 1,200     | 0.0%     |
|                                      | FUM carry-over from 06-07 (note 4) |              |              |              |              |              | \$ 1,200     | one time |
| 5068                                 | FWCC                               | \$ 1,200     | \$ 1,200     | \$ 1,380     | \$ 1,380     | \$ 1,380     | \$ 1,450     | 5.1%     |
| 5077                                 | Pendle Hill                        | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | 0.0%     |
| 5078                                 | ProNica                            | \$ 4,000     | \$ 4,000     | \$ 4,000     | \$ 4,000     | \$ 4,000     | \$ 4,000     | 0.0%     |
| 5087                                 | Quaker Life                        | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | 0.0%     |
|                                      | QUNO                               |              |              |              |              |              | \$ 100       | new      |
| 5097                                 | William Penn House                 | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | \$ 100       | 0.0%     |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                      |                                    | \$ 11,535    | \$ 11,885    | \$ 11,715    | \$ 9,715     | \$ 9,715     | \$ 12,085    | 24.4%    |
| <b>Categories</b>                    |                                    |              |              |              |              |              |              |          |
| <b>Representative Travel</b>         |                                    |              |              |              |              |              |              |          |
| 8160                                 | Annual                             | \$ 2,100     | \$ 1,205     | \$ 2,100     | \$ 1,501     | \$ 2,100     | \$ 2,200     | 4.8%     |
| 8260                                 | Triennial                          | \$ 1,050     | See 9060     |              |              |              |              |          |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                      |                                    | \$ 3,150     | \$ 1,205     | \$ 2,100     | \$ 1,501     | \$ 2,100     | \$ 2,200     | 4.8%     |
| <b>Subtotal actual expenses</b>      |                                    | \$ 55,145    | \$ 51,616    | \$ 58,206    | \$ 52,582    | \$ 66,647    | \$ 75,780    | 13.7%    |
| <b>Transfer out to other classes</b> |                                    |              |              |              |              |              |              |          |
| 9005                                 | Youth at YM Gathering              | \$ 1,000     | \$ 1,000     | \$ 1,000     | \$ 1,000     | \$ 1,000     | \$ 1,000     | 0.0%     |
| 9060                                 | for Triennial travel reserves      |              | \$ 1,050     | \$ 1,050     | \$ 1,050     | \$ 1,050     | \$ 1,100     | 4.8%     |
| 9300                                 | To Trustees Funds                  |              | \$ 250       |              |              |              |              |          |
| 9230                                 | to Walton Lecture/Gathering        |              | \$ 1,997     |              |              |              |              |          |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                      |                                    | \$ 1,000     | \$ 4,297     | \$ 2,050     | \$ 2,050     | \$ 2,050     | \$ 2,100     | 2.4%     |
| <b>Total Income</b>                  |                                    | \$ 56,145    | \$ 55,940    | \$ 60,256    | \$ 58,701    | \$ 68,697    | \$ 77,880    | 13.4%    |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                |                                    | \$ 56,145    | \$ 55,914    | \$ 60,256    | \$ 54,632    | \$ 68,697    | \$ 77,880    | 13.4%    |
| <b>Net Income</b>                    |                                    | \$ 0         | \$ 26        | \$ -         | \$ 4,069     | \$ -         | \$ -         |          |

| <b>TRIENNIAL TRAVEL RESERVE</b>      |                     |                       |                     |                       |                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Categories</b>                    | <b>Actual 04-05</b> | <b>Expected 05-06</b> | <b>Actual 05-06</b> | <b>Expected 06-07</b> | <b>Expected 07-08</b> |
| <b>Carryover from Previous Years</b> | \$ 899              | \$ 1,949              | \$ 1,949            | \$ 2,999              | \$ 4,049              |
| <b>Income</b>                        |                     |                       |                     |                       |                       |
| 2801 Transfer from General Fund      | \$ 1,050            | \$ 1,050              | \$ 1,050            | \$ 1,050              | \$ 1,100              |
| <b>Total available for year</b>      | \$ 1,949            | \$ 2,999              | \$ 2,999            | \$ 4,049              | \$ 5,149              |
| <b>Expenses</b>                      |                     |                       |                     |                       |                       |
| 8260 Triennial Travel (note 3)       |                     | \$ 400                | \$ -                | \$ -                  | \$ 2,000              |
| 8360 Other Travel                    |                     | \$ -                  | \$ -                | \$ -                  |                       |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                | \$ -                | \$ 400                | \$ -                | \$ -                  | \$ 2,000              |
| <b>Net Income</b>                    | \$ 1,050            | \$ 650                | \$ 1,050            | \$ 1,050              | \$ (900)              |
| <b>Carryover to Next Year</b>        | \$ 1,949            | \$ 2,599              | \$ 2,999            | \$ 4,049              | \$ 3,149              |

**Notes:**

- (1) As minuted, in FY 07-08, line 5058 Friends Peace Teams has been increased to \$1250 to support Cecilia Yocum's work for FPT. Earmarked individual donations in support of this work will be accepted, with the expectation of offsetting \$1000 of the FPT expense line.
- (2) As minuted, in FY 07-08, line 5067 FUM will not be a general contribution to FUM, but will be used as the YM directs, to further programs and/or outreach in FUM.
- (3) The next FWCC triennial is in 2007 in Dublin. The next FUM triennial is in 2008 in North Carolina.
- (4) As minuted, \$1200 budgeted for FUM in FY 06-07 is carried over to FY 07-08, pending a decision on its use.

Attachment 9:

ProNica  
Report to SEYM April 2007

Ruth Hyde Paine happily retired to CA during the year. On a return visit in January she was pleased with ProNica progress. There are 5 new committee members. Al Webber has agreed to remain on the Board of Directors for another 3-year term until 2010.

Donations are down by 10 or 30%, depending on who reviews which report. Please ask your meetings to send a donation to further the work of ProNica. Buy crafts. Hair cut donations go directly to the Beauty School in Acahualinca. Restricted funds are tracked through the system Caroline Lanker helped set up in QuickBooks. Unrestricted donations go in the general operating fund, which pays not only recurring bills, such as phone and salaries, but also for grants ProNica approves each year. This fiscal year grants total \$15k.

There are 2 delegations scheduled this year, up to 15 participants for 2 weeks. Friends Witness is 4 to 6 people for 10 days. We are reaching out to other colleges, especially Quaker organizations to promote delegations, which bring funds in, but more importantly, educate US Americans to Nicaragua conditions.

Miami Friend Carl Hersch created a 4-minute video clip about the Beauty school to assist Pam Haigh in raising funds. I will travel to Monthly Meetings to give video presentations and spread the message. To the web site, newsletter and video clips will be added. Lillian was on community radio WMNF twice this visit; I was on once last year. Listener interest brought 1 volunteer for the stateside office. Another volunteer came from Eckerd College delegation 2 years ago.

Quaker House now has a new refrigerator and washer thanks to generous donation from Barbara Wolfe. Wireless internet access is also now available, making Quaker House more desirable for visitors.

Lillian Hall spoke about projects in Nicaragua. Los Quinchos struggles after the death of one of their young men. The women's clinic in Acahualinca needs funds for tubals, which have increased from \$35 to \$75. Thirty women are waiting. This is well spent money that changes the lives of the women and their families. Other projects - libraries, sesame oil, organic hibiscus - function well. Come for a visit, see for yourself.

Respectfully submitted,  
Davida Johns  
Stateside Coordinator  
130 Nineteenth Avenue Southeast  
Saint Petersburg, Florida 33705  
727.821.2428  
pronica@verizon.net  
www.pronica.org

## Attachment 10:

### Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Report Respectfully submitted by Sybil Brennan

Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, Annual Meeting was attended by Ellie Caldwell (Palm Beach) and Sybil Brennan (Gainesville) in Providence, Rhode Island, March 14-17, 2007. Most meetings were held in the Moses Brown School, formerly called Friends School, now in its 223<sup>rd</sup> year. It was hosted by New England YM and Providence Monthly Meeting.

We enjoyed the opportunity for worship and fellowship with the wider Quaker world, which is open to all, and had wonderful experiences. We worshipped in small, diverse groups as well as with the whole body gathered together.

FWCC will have its 70<sup>th</sup> birthday having been formed in 1937 with almost a thousand Quakers present. The celebration will be over the September 15, 2007 weekend at Swarthmore College and Haverford College. All are invited.

FWCC is thanking all the meetings and individuals who have recognized the worth and need for having an international Quaker organization. We are in the third year of a capital campaign and remind everyone that a financial gift or celebratory memorial could be given to the Founders' Fund. Building endowment is underway to help insure a better future.

Every second year there is a Quaker Youth Pilgrimage. The next one is to Great Britain and Ireland, July 18 to August 15, 2008. Applications are due by April 30, 2007.

The visitation program is an essential part of FWCC. Visitation is like opening windows and letting the light of understanding shine in. Through visitation, Friends meet "face-to-face and heart to heart" to share both that which unites and that which divides them in the life of the Spirit. With God's help, open exchange builds understanding, respect, trust and love, and renews awareness of a worldwide family of Friends.

We have had the company of Margaret Fraser, General Secretary of the Section of the Americas and Nancy Rose Logan, who have visited among us during yearly meeting gathering. We thank both of you for sharing deeply with us and your good humor throughout our deliberations.

Everyone consider "January in Jamaica." Our regional section is being revitalized and consists of six yearly meetings from North Carolina to Jamaica. Do join our representatives in learning about the problems, concerns and joys of our Friends – while sharing ideas in worship and I tasks – probably the second week in January.

Remember the Friends Directory – now to be updated regularly. It could be in every meetinghouse library and could be shared with every one of your traveling friends.

The triennial in Ireland is in August. Although our plans are not finalized, I think Ellie and I will be representing SEYM at that meeting. We look forward to reporting fully to you about that experience. More complete annual reports and personal adventures will appear in the future documents of SEYM.

FWCC is "we" and we are "they." We are part of them; they are part of us.

# Representative Travel Guidelines

These are the guidelines for representative travel money disbursement, which are intended for use by the YM Representatives to organizations and by the YM Assistant Clerk.

## Summary of Guidelines for Representatives

- The assistant clerk oversees the disbursement of travel funds.
- Any official representative may request travel money from SEYM. However, not all travel can be fully covered by the Yearly Meeting. When more travel money is requested than is available, the assistant clerk will prioritize and pro-rate the disbursements, considering guidelines set by the Yearly Meeting.
- The responsibilities of the representatives with respect to obtaining travel money are:
  - Make requests for travel money to the assistant clerk
  - Submit receipts to the YM secretary
  - Report to the Yearly Meeting

## Complete Guidelines for Assistant Clerk and Representatives

**Minute 07EC01:** The EC approves the draft of the Representative Travel Guidelines prepared by the ad hoc Representative Travel Committee and distributed to EC members. The proposed revised guidelines will be brought for approval to the Yearly Business Meeting sessions, Fourth Month 2007, after being published in the DIA (available from the seym.org website).

## Guidelines for Representative Travel

The Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (SEYM) holds that it is in the best interest of the Yearly Meeting (YM) to insure that all who are led and appointed to serve as official representatives to affiliated organizations should be able to do so. Names of potential representatives are brought forward by the Nominating Committee for approval in Yearly Business Meeting (YBM) or Interim Business Meeting (IBM) plenary sessions.

In addition, if the YBM or IBM approves sending someone to a one-time gathering for which there is no standing representation or prior approval, such as a youth conference or special consultation, then that person is considered an official representative for that occasion and may request travel money. If a situation arises where approval is time sensitive and action is required before the next YBM or IBM, it should be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee, with a recommendation from the Assistant Clerk.

## Sources of Support for Representatives

### Yearly Meeting Support:

#### Information:

It is advisable for Friends considering a representative assignment to discuss the assignment with other Friends, particularly, but not exclusively, those who have previously served the organization of interest. The Nominating Committee and the *SEYM Operational Handbook, Procedures & Job Descriptions* are excellent resources for details about the degree of commitment required by each organization. The handbook can be obtained from the SEYM secretary or downloaded from the SEYM website, [www.seym.org](http://www.seym.org). A potential candidate needs to be clear on what is expected of her/him from the outset.



## **Financial Assistance:**

The YM budget includes financial assistance for official representative travel. The Assistant YM Clerk is the contact person for assistance with the travel. No one who is led to be a representative to an organization should be deterred from doing so for financial reasons. However, though the YM plans to increase its funds over time, it is, unfortunately, not now possible to fully cover all representative travel. When travel money requests exceed the limit of our representative travel budget or other sources of YM funding in a given year, the Assistant YM Clerk may need to prioritize and pro-rate the disbursements according to guidelines approved by the YM. Such decisions are made by the Assistant YM Clerk in consultation with the Finance Committee in order to assure that all possible resources have been considered.

Some representatives may wish to pay their own travel expenses. All such gifts benefit YM and are greatly appreciated. It is recommended that receipts for such funding be sent to the YM secretary in order that the costs of representative travel can be documented for more accurate budget preparation. If requested, the secretary will provide a receipt for the travel expenses as a donation to the YM.

## **Worship and Ministry:**

The primary source of nurture and guidance for representatives within the YM is the YM Assistant Clerk. However, should issues arise that are also appropriate for Worship and Ministry, the YM clerks, or others in the YM, those avenues are readily available, as well.

## **Reporting to the YM:**

Each official representative of SEYM (whether or not he/she requests travel money) and anyone else who receives travel assistance from the Yearly Meeting should report to the YM regarding his or her trips or other forms of representation. There are several ways of reporting. The following are preferred, because they reach the most people:

- an article in the SEYM newsletter
- a special interest session at the YBM Gathering
- a written report in the IBM- or YBM-DIA
- a (succinct) verbal report in a YBM plenary session

## **Monthly Meeting or Worship Group Support:**

It is recommended that a prospective representative go through a clearness process within his/her monthly meeting before he/she approaches Nominating Committee for consideration. In some cases, Nominating Committee approaches a Friend to ask her/him to serve as a representative. In this situation, too, a clearness committee meeting is appropriate prior to acceptance of the recommendation. The amount of time and energy needed to do the job varies a great deal, depending on the organization. In some cases of significant and active involvement, it may be advisable for the monthly meeting clearness committee to recommend that an on-going care committee be provided for the representative.

Having a representative to a Friends organization within a monthly meeting can enrich the life of the monthly meeting. It is recommended that the monthly meeting provide opportunities for the representative to bring information, ideas and concerns from the organization before the monthly meeting as well as the YM. Monthly meetings may also choose to provide some of the financial support for their member Representatives.

## **Procedure for Travel Money Requests and Disbursement:**

A representative who wants to request travel funding should contact the YM Assistant Clerk with the approximate cost before the trip. He/she should contact the Assistant Clerk with the final amount after the trip. The Assistant Clerk approves disbursement by notifying the representative and the YM secretary. The representative sends the receipts for expenses to the YM secretary. The secretary sends the representative a check and notifies the Assistant Clerk that the representative has been paid.

The representative may also request some or all of the travel money disbursement before the trip is made, if needed. All travel money disbursement requests need to be made during the fiscal year in which the trip was made. (The SEYM fiscal year runs from June 1 through May 31.)

## **Assistant Clerk Procedures:**

The Assistant Clerk approves travel money for any official representative, within the constraints of the available travel money. If more requests are received than available money in the budget, the Assistant Clerk contacts the Finance Committee Clerk to see if other monies can be tapped for representative travel.

The Assistant Clerk contacts all official representatives at the beginning of each fiscal year to determine the following:

1. Does the representative have any concerns about the organization he/she is representative to or about his/her ability to represent the YM?
2. Does the representative have other needs and does he/she have the spiritual support he/she feels is needed?
3. Which representatives expect to travel in this coming year?
4. Which representatives expect to request travel money?
5. Do all representatives have a clear understanding of the travel money disbursement procedures and policies?

Given this information, the Assistant Clerk can estimate whether representative travel will be within budget, or whether additional funds need to be explored. If it is determined that even with additional funds, insufficient monies will be available, the Clerk uses the following guidelines, along with his/her best judgment of individual circumstances, to prioritize and/or pro-rate disbursement:

1. Travel to meetings of organization governing boards on which the representatives sit have the highest priority.
2. Travel by each representative to one official meeting per year of an organization is prioritized above additional trips by any representative in the same fiscal year.
3. Travel to regular business meetings of the organizations has priority over travel to other meetings, such as consultations, symposiums, etc.
4. If one trip combines both a representative meeting and personal enrichment or leisure, then the expenses should be pro-rated accordingly, with the YM contributing for the business portion of the trip.

## Attachment 12: SEYM Youth Program Epistles

### Young Friends Epistle

April 8, 2007

Greeting to Friends everywhere from Young Friends of Southeastern Yearly meeting.

We are fifteen elementary school young Friends plus King Majolika Nagahoma Carare to Dare from the Green Room at a Methodist camp in central Florida. The king's name was created using two letters from everyone's name. We come from all over Florida with some people as far away as Indiana and New York. We met over Easter weekend from Wednesday, April 4 through Sunday, April 8.

We had lots of fun. We looked through the mysterious suitcase with art supplies, found an old cigar box, which we decorated, and then put the king bear on the box's top.

We did help increase the peace discussions with games like Tug of Peace and pattern ball. We learned about teamwork doing a ropes course. We blew bubbles, played kickball, went swimming, and dyed Easter eggs. We also worked with the teens on a world map and talked about how much food is in different parts of the world. We also had a great time at the intergenerational dance.

While we played, we talked about bullying and how conflict escalates. We learned to try to talk and ask for a peaceful solution. We shared whom we trust and why we trust them. We used the Quash ball to help us take turns talking and listening to the person with the Quash ball. We learned lots of stuff and had a fun time learning it.

### "Wee" Friends Epistle

April 8, 2007

Greetings from "Wee Friends."

We met at the Southeastern Yearly Meeting at the United Methodist Life Enrichment Center in the Blue Room in Leesburg, Florida, from April 5 to April 8, 2007.

Our Wee Friends leader was Marie Marcinkowski, who came prepared with a schedule and copious resources centered on the theme of Loving Ourselves, Loving Others, and Loving the Earth. What we discovered was that We Friends already knew these things, and really we just wanted to have fun, fun, fun, fun.

We loved ourselves by knowing that we needed to be outdoors blowing bubbles, playing hopscotch, and enjoying new and old Friends. We just wanted to have fun, fun, fun, fun.

We loved others by creating the flower centerpieces for the enjoyment of all Friends.

We loved the earth by just wanting to be in it all the time, especially when Berry, Caroline, and Judy led us on a nature walk. We wanted to have fun, fun, fun, fun.

The Wee Friends enjoyed the aster egg hunt with the Teen Friends.

We liked everything we did. A favorite part was making the “Fun” posters. We liked going outside every day for fun, fun, fun, fun.

One Wee Friend enjoyed playing soccer with his Dad. We liked meeting and playing with new Friends: fun, fun, fun, fun.

In light of what we learned, our theme next year will be “Having Fun Within the Blessed Community.”

‘Teen Epistle  
April 8, 2007

Our theme this year was *Quaker Inventors, Innovators, and Contributors to History*. In the beginning of our meeting a big wind blew that drew us together. We began to meet each other and became reacquainted.

Our first speaker talked about the right sharing of world resources. We did an interactive game with a tarp that displayed a cultural map. With the map, we learned how the world’s resources were divided up among North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa, Japan, Australia, and Russia.

Our second speaker was Max L. Carter who wrote a book named *Minutiae of the Meeting*. He spoke about Quaker connections. He was very informative and contributed much information to our theme, and his beard was pretty kickin!

Ned Stowe talked to us about his work as a lobbyist in Washington, D.C. He talked about “green” buildings. Samir Noukaddam is a representative of American Friends Service Committee. He explained the Israel – Palestine conflict.

We helped the Easter Bunny hide eggs.

On our last day we had another speaker. Arthur Larrabee explained how to clerk a meeting and to whom you should direct your voice in meeting. He also gave us new ideas on how to be respectful in listening to others' opinions and when to talk.

We had fun doing the fish bowl, playing sports, and a freezing hour at the pool. The fish bowl consisted of thoughtful questions and answers as the adults quietly observed.

We had a movie night watching *Mr. Deeds*. It warmed our spirits following a week of seriousness.

We hope we will see everyone next year, and we look forward to seeing new faces, too.

## Attachment 13: 2007 Southeastern Yearly Meeting Epistle

Fourth Month 8, 2007

To Friends Everywhere,

As Friends gathered on the Picciola Peninsula into Lake Griffin near Leesburg, Florida, we were greeted by live oaks with Spanish moss, and great blue herons by the lake.

Yearly Meeting began with two workshops on clerking given by Arthur Larrabee, in which he modeled the clerking techniques he was teaching. When our business sessions began, Friends saw that our Clerk Susan Taylor had already adopted many of the techniques modeled earlier. Friends reminded themselves that we are all part of the clerking process, and should attend with a “clerking frame of mind.”

Nearly 200 Friends attended- more than 160 adults and 30+ children. We have an ongoing concern regarding the difficulty of families with children attending because of the increasing costs, and to that end we are developing a Youth Endowment Fund to subsidize the costs of Yearly Meeting for families with children.

A revised version of the SEYM **Faith and Practice** is nearing completion. The two sections approved at these sessions on the “Blessed Community” and “Concerns, Leadings and Testimonies” seemed to express the spirit of this Yearly Meeting gathering. Shared meals and intergenerational singing, dancing, and music-making were community-building activities. Friends shared their concerns and leadings in a wide variety of special interest sessions on topics ranging from the “Minute of Grave Concern” regarding domestic spying from Palm Beach Monthly Meeting to immigrant concerns to environmental issues. We minuted the importance of spreading word of the impact of the war in Iraq as seen from the Iraqi perspective and were urged to consider how we might be led to respond. Visitors representing many Friends’ organizations made us feel connected to the wider community of Friends. ProNica was represented by Lillian Hall, the Managua, Nicaragua coordinator of ProNica, Davida Johns, stateside coordinator, and Pam Haigh, who demonstrated the ProNica project she started last year teaching haircutting and other beautician skills to impoverished Nicaraguan women. Friends saw a short video made by Carl Hersh of Miami Meeting about the beauty school.

The setting, facilities and beautiful spring weather enabled a wealth of outdoor activities including a nature hike, early morning worship by the lakeside, a “ropes course” experience for Young Friends, and quiet benches and swings for private meditation. Several families and individuals camped in tents or RVs under clear star-filled skies and a near-full moon..

Friends noted with sorrow the passing of J. William (“Bill”) Greenleaf, a founder of Southeastern

In the J. Bernard Walton lecture, Arthur Larrabee shared his well-considered ideas on “Leadership and Authority in the Religious Society of Friends.” He stressed respect for human leadership in Friends meetings, within the context of the leading of the Spirit. He also discussed appropriate delegation of authority, using pertinent examples.

Throughout our several days together, we continued discernment we began two years ago on our right relationship with Friends United Meeting (FUM). An ad hoc committee met in prayerful consideration for a total of nine hours. After which, its clerk gave a meaningful report that helped focus further discernment by the Yearly Meeting as a whole. We labored for 7 1/2 hours seeking unity through the strong sense of desires both to lay down and maintain our membership with FUM. Friends felt the need to remain in membership in order to be a witness to the truth that Quakerism is inclusive and therefore Friends should remain present, continue laboring and see what love will do. The need to lay down our membership was solidly grounded in the need not to be part of an organization that practices exclusion and in the need to be released from laboring with this concern. As Friends, we share a strong, enduring commitment to our faith path and to the work our testimonies call us to in the world. We respect and love one another. We were concerned that our responses to this issue threatened our unity as a Yearly Meeting. We understand that we as a body are experiencing the strong call to the work and witness for social justice for our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender brothers and sisters. We are called to acknowledge the ongoing oppression, prejudice, exclusion and violence these brothers and sisters are subject to in our culture, our country, our world and our Religious Society. We are called by our testimony of equality to walk the walk with these brothers and sisters. As we labored in our sessions, we were mindful of Arthur Larrabee’s quoting from Galatians 5:22-23, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Against such things there is no law.” A Godly outcome of discernment reflects those fruits of the Spirit. We felt the Spirit moving among us, and eventually, the following minute emerged:

***07YBM15 SEYM is in unity in declaring that our Yearly Meeting has entered a period of transformation with regard to our membership in Friends United Meeting. We acknowledge great pain and struggle within our body and, as we have heard, among other members of F.U.M. as well, over this process and we strive to hold each other in love and Light as we labor.***

***We will work as a Yearly Meeting toward reaching unity with regard to laying down our present relationship, and toward creating new relationships as opportunities arise and as spirit leads.***

***To allow this process to occur, SEYM will suspend formal membership in F.U.M. for two years. During this time, our yearly meeting will make no financial contributions to F.U.M. Instead, the funds that would have gone to F.U.M. will go to support F.U.M.-related activities or outreach at the discretion or suggestion of SEYM. We will offer both financial and spiritual support to representatives to F.U.M. as our members come forward to carry out those duties. If at the end of the two-year period our membership is not in unity to renew the relationship, SEYM will permanently lay down our membership in F.U.M.***

***We seek to maintain a loving relationship with Friends United Meeting. We also look for opportunities to communicate with members of F.U.M. about our concerns.***

May Peace be with you and everyone.

In God's Lovingkindness,

The Epistle Committee and  
Susan Taylor, Clerk  
Southeastern Yearly Meeting, U.S.A.