

**North Carolina Yearly Meeting
Representative Body
Centre Friends Meeting
November 5, 2011**

Judy Ritter, Clerk of North Carolina Yearly Meeting, welcomed everyone to this session of Representative Body and read the opening minute:

*“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
Worship the Lord with gladness;
Come before Him with joyful songs.
Know that the Lord is God.
It is He who made us, and we are His;
We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.
Enter His courts with praise;
Give thanks to Him and praise His name.*

*For the Lord is good and His love endures forever;
His faithfulness continues through all generations.” Psalm 100*

We give thanks today for this time together, for the resources of this Yearly Meeting – financial and spiritual, for the leadership of the past and for our future leadership, for those that minister in the pulpit and those that serve from the janitor’s closet. Are we thankful at all times and in all places? Our shouts of joy and songs of praise be to God the creator of all things and our sustainer in all things.

Following a period of open worship, Rusty Parsons led our devotions. He spoke about loyalty. He said that we should be loyal as Friends to each other and as people joined together in Christ. He used scripture from John 1:42 and noted that although Peter had his ups and downs, he did not give up. He kept his faith. We must stay with our faith too and continue to build the Religious Society of Friends on the solid rock. Rusty closed the devotions with prayer.

Next, the Clerk called our attention to the agenda. She had two additions to make to the agenda: a Mid-Year Planning Committee report and a MOWA Choctaw Friends Center Board report. The proposed agenda with the two additions was **approved**.

Instead of a roll call, a sign-in sheet was circulated. Regrets were received from Frances Bolick, Jake and Sarah Penley, Martha Jo and Keith Jones, Bobby Choplin, Lou Ray Cartwright, Richard Wilcox, Bill Eagles, and Ann Parks.

Superintendent’s Report – John P. Porter

My report of my activities today is rather short. My services are not in as much demand as they have been in times past. It is also fair to say that there has been a rather fairly brief time period since we met at Black Mountain. This is not to say that the work of the Yearly Meeting has slowed down. Much continues to be done for the future of the programs and ministry of our work together. I am just not as involved as I have been in the past since much of the planning is for 2012 and beyond.

I mentioned in our staff meeting on Thursday that this is the first time in my memory that almost all of the meetings seeking pastoral leadership have those positions filled. There is one meeting that has not benefited from having a pastor for a long time. There are a couple of meetings that are in the process of discerning where they will next find themselves regarding their pastoral situations. I have continued to work with these meetings as they discern God’s will and His way for them to move forward. Specifically, the meetings that continue to discern their way forward are Chatham, Hunting Creek, Poplar Ridge, Pilot Mountain and Somerton.

On Thursday In our staff meeting, one of the areas that we discussed was a change in the way we do the Minute Book for our annual reports. Absent an objection from this body today, effective with this year’s edition of our Minute Book, there will be a significant difference in the format. We do not intend to publish a Minute Book in the printed format that we have all been used to. Instead, we plan to do an in-house printed loose-leaf publication and will provide each Meeting with three printed copies. There will be one copy each for the clerk of Monthly Meeting, clerk of Ministry and Counsel and the pastor. Printed copies will be provided to those who request a hard copy for their own use.

We also intend to print an abridged directory in a format similar to the reports booklet you receive at Yearly Meeting sessions. Several copies of this will be produced and distributed to each meeting. We will also have

the entire Minute Book (absent the directory portion) on our website in a pdf format so that individuals can peruse or download and print as much or as little of the information from the minutes or records as they need. Due to privacy concerns, the names, addresses, and contact information for individuals contained in the directory portion will not be available on our website.

The reasons for this are pretty simple. One, it will cost appreciably less to do this than the traditional way. We have budgeted \$3100 for this expenditure for next year's budget. Two, we can get the information out that is needed to those who want it and it is available for all who would like to see it. Three, if errors are discovered corrections can be made immediately rather than wait until the next year's publication of a minute book. In short, we believe we can do a better job for less money and get needed information to those who need or want it more efficiently.

I want to encourage each of our pastors to plan to attend the National Friends Pastors Conference that will be held in Indiana from October 30-November 2, 2012. I have brochures with detailed information available.

Now, the time is coming when Mary and I say goodbye to the many friends that we have met and have come to know and to love. But, it is really not goodbye for as it is said in France, "People never say good-bye. They just say au-revoir." Au-revoir literally means "see you later." (I knew those two years of studying French in college would come in handy someday.)

When I came to meet with the Yearly Meeting Representative Body in September 1996, I stated that I intended to follow where God leads my family and me. I said that I thought Friends needed to look forward to the next 100 years and be open to new ways to minister. I said that I saw the role of superintendent to be a pastor's pastor. I reference two books that had impacted me in my life to that point. Those were *The Awesome Power of the Listening Ear* by John Drakeford and *Failure is Impossible* by Lynn Sherr. The latter book is an account of Susan B. Anthony's struggle for the women's suffrage movement. During these fifteen years, I have attempted to listen and to encourage the Yearly Meeting to be visionary and faithful to our Quaker heritage, the word of God, and the teachings of Christ Jesus.

As I leave this position of superintendent for the next chapter in my life to whatever and wherever that may be, I pray that God gives me the strength and endurance to follow the tenets of these book titles that I shared with you then and again today. I also leave you to discern and to pursue where God is leading North Carolina Yearly Meeting for the next chapter in its life to whatever and wherever that may be.

I leave with the conviction that the Yearly Meeting, in spite of its issues and at times its dysfunction, is in a stronger and better place than it was fifteen years ago and that you and I together, with God's leadership, have made this possible.

I thank you for your faithfulness in helping this happen. I encourage you, with strong leadership and dedicated workers, to continue on the path where God is leading this wonderful group of dedicated Christ followers. Followers continuing in the way that we have been influenced to do from George Fox until today.

I leave you with another book title and the principles espoused in it. The book was written by Reuben B. Job who is a retired Methodist bishop. It is based on the teachings of John Wesley. The title of the book is: *Three Simple Rules That Will Change the World*. The rules are these: 1. Do no harm, 2. Do good and 3. Stay in Love with God.

I respectfully ask each of you to remember these words and to listen more than you talk. It is amazing what one learns when one listens and how little we learn when we are talking. I ask that each of us remember that failure is impossible when we are on the right side. God has told us that the battle is already won. I urge each one of us to do no harm but to do good and, most importantly, to stay in love with God, for truly if we are in love with God all of these other goals will fall easily into place.

I thank each of you and I thank North Carolina Yearly Meeting for taking a chance on an unknown person whom you selected with divine leading to bring stability and integrity to our Yearly Meeting. God bless you all. I ask that you support your next superintendent, Randy Quate, as much and more than you have supported John Porter. As you do, this Yearly Meeting will continue on its path to spiritual growth and vitality reaching others with the good news of God's loving power and saving grace.

Minute of Appreciation

Following the Superintendent's Report, Clerk recognized Walter Shore who presented a Minute of Appreciation for John from the Yearly Meeting:

We, the members of North Carolina Yearly Meeting, acknowledge with grateful appreciation the leadership of John Porter as Superintendent for the past 15 years. He has been not only a speaker and promoter of the various programs and ministries of the Yearly Meeting, but also a tireless

worker among us and beside us, encouraging us to put our faith into practice. God Bless you, John, in your future endeavors – your influence is forever etched in North Carolina Yearly Meeting.

This minute was **approved**.

Director of Program Ministries Report

Darlene Pittman gave the Program Ministries Report. She reported much activity in many areas.

Quaker Lake: She reported that 1,000 people and 100 volunteers came to the Pumpkin Festival on October 22nd. 850 school-age students plus parents and siblings came to Quaker Lake for the Pumpkin Patch Field Trips. The work with honey bees continues. Volunteers are needed to re-roof the Rec Hall.

Young Adult and College Ministry: Friends Campus Ministries are doing well. *Jingle All the Way 5K* is planned for Saturday, December 10, 2011. The Greensboro area campus ministries have about 25 young people in attendance, and they are planning an Intergenerational Worship on Wednesday, November 16, 2011. Our attendance is encouraged.

Young Friends: Youth Tremors will be held December 21-January 1, 2012. She asked that we encourage our youth to sign up now as it fills up quickly.

Intern Program: Recruiting and training for fall and winter interns are ongoing.

Christian Education: Those who helped with Jamaica Bible School are eager to share their experiences. We were encouraged to ask them to speak at our meetings.

MOWA Choctaw Center: Thanksgiving and Christmas Collections are in progress. We were encouraged to ask our meetings to make contributions to this worthwhile project.

Darlene also had one very important announcement: the birth of William Jasper Allen, son of Darrin and Becca Allen. We welcomed William Jasper.

At the conclusion of her report, Darlene asked all the NCYM staff to join her, and she read a Minute of Appreciation from them.

Minute of Appreciation for John and Mary Porter

Dear John & Mary,

Fifteen years ago you embarked on a new journey as Superintendent of NCYM, and we stand grateful, as part of the Body of Christ. We have heard you say numerous times that you had no idea what you had accepted to do when God called you to serve Him in this capacity. It is our hope and prayer that as you reflect upon this chapter of your life, that an overwhelming sense of peace and accomplishment flood your heart.

North Carolina Yearly Meeting is in a much healthier place because you have served us faithfully in so many ways.

You have been a farmer: plowing the way to approval of our Mission Statement within 18 months of your arrival; planting seeds of church health and growth across the Yearly Meeting; fertilizing more with two rounds of Coach training; laying the ground work and sowing seeds for an Intern Program, College Campus Ministries, SOUL, Year-round Quaker Lake Programming, and MOWA Choctaw Friends Center ownership. You responded to the call to harvest by establishing a Mexico Task Force, Capital Campaigns for Quaker Lake, Share the Blessing, and Quaker Lake additions.

As “John the Builder,” you built a staff, equipping and empowering us to dream beyond the norm, driving us to reach for all that God wants to do through us. You insulated us with your Quaker values, wisdom, and discernment. While encouraging a focus on Quaker testimonies at Annual Gatherings, you also challenged us to find a deeper sense of community, both at Black Mountain and by initiating a Mid-Year Gathering. You have built houses, replaced roofs, remodeled bathrooms, changed light bulbs, fixtures, and repaired toilets. You challenged our blueprint of our Yearly Meeting structure; opened your home to so many; and, yes, you are one great electrician.

You have been our Captain of the ship: charting the course for us to discern and discover God’s Vision for NCYM; serving as a navigational beacon through the relocation process of our home office and the development of a functional database; the bailing of water through the great office flood; righting our ship by making a way for our youth and young adults to be a valuable part of our structure; and constantly steering us to focus on Jesus Christ as our lighthouse and anchor.

John, we thank you for accepting God’s call to NCYM. So much has been accomplished in these 15 years, but not without prayer, determination, laughs and practical jokes, some tears, and a genuine sense of God’s anointing. We praise God for your leadership and your self-sacrificing service. You

have been our counselor, mentor, motivator, and especially, our Friend. Your impact will forever be treasured.

NCYM Staff: Darrin Allen, Judith Cranford, Janice Dalton, Brenda Inman, Ann & Tim Kendall, Darlene Pittman, Paul Routh, Heather Varner, Sarah W. Vestal, Andrew Williams.

Minute **approved**.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Martha Jo Jones, Judith Cranford gave the Treasurer's Report. As of October 31st, 68% of Askings have been paid. 33 meetings are paid to date, and 5 are paid in full. We encourage payment of Askings.

Stewardship and Finance Report – Budget for 2012

Jimmy Spaulding gave the Finance Report. He first expressed appreciation to Martha Jo Jones for her service as Treasurer. As it is time in the rotation for Martha Jo to be replaced, he presented the name of David Hobson as Treasurer. He also presented the name of Mary Farlow as Assistant Treasurer. These names were **approved**.

Jimmy also reported that he had written a letter to meetings who were not paying their Askings. He received 8 or 9 responses. All but one of those indicated that they were having financial hardships. One meeting felt that administrative costs were too high and that some of the programs did not apply to their members. Jimmy wrote back and explained about the administrative costs. He encouraged them to watch the Askings video. He also encouraged them to get more involved in the programs of the Yearly Meeting. John Porter suggested that a letter, on the order of Jimmy's letter, could be prepared to go with the budget. It was **approved** that a letter be prepared to go out with the budget. Jimmy expressed thanks to all those meetings who pay their Askings.

Next, Jimmy presented the Budget for 2012. He said that the budget was approved by the Finance and Executive Committees on September 17, 2011. The proposed Askings will be \$115.00 per member which is an increase of \$3.00 per member. The proposed income from Askings and other sources is \$1,248,453.00. Proposed expenditures total \$1,248,453.00. This proposed budget is \$3,822.00 less than the 2011 budget.

Jimmy explained details of the budget. The proposed 2012 Budget was **approved**.

Evangelism and Outreach Commission Report

Billy Britt reported that the Evangelism and Outreach Commission has four committees under it: Christian Vocations, chaired by Tony Lowe; Church Extension, chaired by Eric Morrison; Evangelism, chaired by Tom Barton; and Missions, chaired by Rodney Powell.

Church Vocations has met regularly and is planning for financial assistance for those in college or seminary preparing for Christian work. Individuals and/or meetings are asked to help. Bethesda is supporting a campus ministry at Campbell University. Spring Garden supports campus ministry in the Greensboro area. Billy wondered if other meetings could sponsor campus ministries. The future will be greatly enhanced by campus ministries. Anyone interested in sponsoring a campus ministry should contact Sarah Vestal for details.

Church Extension is looking for places to begin new meetings. There are many areas in our state that are in need of our Friends' message. Our message is relevant for today's world.

Evangelism is studying ways for us to be a better witness.

The Missions Committee is concerned about establishing a Friends Meeting in Belize. There is also renewed interest in the work in Mexico.

After Billy's report, Clerk Judy Ritter, gave instructions regarding the luncheon honoring John and Mary Porter.

After the lunch break, we resumed our business. Clerk noted that we had had a wonderful celebration and appreciation for John. She said that any who would like to make a contribution for the cruise could write a check to North Carolina Yearly Meeting and designate it for the Porters' cruise.

The Clerk then invited our new Superintendent, as of January 1, 2012, Randy Quate, to share with us. Randy said that he was looking forward to working with us. He introduced his wife, LeAnne, and daughters, Ragan and Haley.

Executive Committee Report

Gwen Headen reported that she had two items of business from the Executive Committee.

The first item of business was a request from the Investment Committee which is a sub-committee of the Executive Committee. Currently the Investment Committee consists of four members by position and one at

large member. The Investment Committee has requested approval to add three additional at large members in order to better utilize the financial talent within North Carolina Yearly Meeting. This request was **approved**.

The second item of business related to taxes for retired pastors. According to the law, a retired pastor may designate his gross pension income for housing allowance. This designation is due at the beginning of every year. We need to approve this designation for 2012 so that it may be used when filing taxes in 2013. This must be done annually and must appear in our minutes. We **approved**.

Nominating Committee Report

In the absence of Ann Parks, Mary Butt reported for the Nominating Committee. Mary reported the resignation of Chuck Harris from the Trustees of Trust Funds Committee. She submitted the name of Tom Wright for approval as replacement. His term would begin 1/2012 and end 12/2014. We **approved** the appointment of Tom Wright.

Mary also made two corrections to the Nominating Committee Report approved at NCYM Representative Body Annual Session September 2011. (1) Peggy Long is a member of Branon Meeting, not Winthrop. (2) The term for Kevin Smitherman as Trustee ends 2017, not 2014.

Mary also stated that suggestions for appointees to the Committees of NCYM Representative Body and to related and other organizations would be welcome. She asked that suggestions be made to Ann Parks or any member of the Nominating Committee.

Mid-Year Planning Committee Report

Susan Steelman reported that plans have been made to hold Mid-Year Gathering at Quaker Lake on March 3, 2012, from 9:30 until 4:30. The registration fee will be \$20.00. Our speaker will be Randy Quate. The theme will be "Being Built Together" which will lead to the theme for Yearly Meeting which will be "Community." The plans for Mid-Year Gathering were **approved**.

Benefits and Insurance Report

Shelby Shore reported that one million dollars has been raised by Share the Blessing II. Some of our Askings also go for insurance and benefits, but more is needed on an ongoing basis. We must have adequate benefits for our ministers in order to have a pool of ministers available to us. We were encouraged to remember our ministers and contribute as we can.

Pastoral Care Committee Report

Clifford Winslow reminded us that membership on the Pastoral Care Committee consists mostly of representatives from various committees and from those who serve due to the positions they hold. There are, however, two at large members which must be named annually. He asked that the names of Kathy Kellum and Clifford Winslow be re-named as members at large. **Meeting approved**.

MOWA Choctaw Friends Center Board Report

Gwen Headen reported that all students that have been in the tutoring program from the beginning are on the "A" honor roll. There are currently 23 students in the program. More partners are needed for the Team to Tutor program. Meetings and groups in meetings are asked to consider contributions to this worthwhile program. Gifts of \$50.00 per month would help off-set the expenses of this program, but any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Trustees of the Trust Funds Report

Dick Coe reported that the seven Trustees plus Financial Manager, Judith Cranford, meet as a full body three times per year in April, August, and December. Funds are followed closely, however, by Judith and Dick monthly. They look at balancing needs for operating costs and needs for the future. A decision was recently made to switch from using Charles Schwab to TD Ameri-Trade and Ameri-Vest. In general, investments are believed to be going in a positive direction.

Ministry and Counsel Report

Linda Selleck reported that the Ministry and Counsel Executive Committee met on October 27, 2011. They are trying to find a meeting time that works for all committee members. They have begun reading letters from meetings regarding the Recording Committee and candidate Debbie Parvin. Letters will be received through November.

Linda reported that the Recording Committee has met several times this fall. The next date for recording classes is November 12th.

After postponing the Fall Revival, the Spiritual Life Commission is planning a special event, tentatively, on Saturday, February 11th. Information regarding Spiritual Condition Reports will be sent soon, and the deadline will be April 1, 2012.

Next Linda presented recommendations for Ministry and Counsel Nominating Committee changes. These recommendations were approved by NCYM Ministry and Counsel in session on August 6, 2011:

1. Beginning immediately after the rise of the August 6, 2011, NCYM Ministry and Counsel gathering, all four positions (Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Recording Clerk, Assistant Recording Clerk) will begin a three year rotating appointment, with a phase-out of these appointments starting in 2012.

2. NCYM Ministry and Counsel clerks and committee appointments will begin each year of service at the rise of the annual NCYM sessions, and end that year of service at the rise of the next annual NCYM sessions. If there is a transition of clerks, they will coordinate their work between the NCYM Ministry and Counsel meeting and the Yearly Meeting sessions, and continue their tasks until completed.

3. Friends may be re-appointed for an additional 3-year term, to serve a maximum of 6 continuous years.

4. After at least one year, Friends may be appointed to serve again.

5. The convener of the Nominating Committee for NCYM Ministry and Counsel will be the Assistant Clerk of NCYM Ministry and Counsel, and will work closely with the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

6. The Chairperson of the Nominating Committee will be appointed by the Quarter responsible for Ministry and Counsel Nominating Committee oversight through annual rotations.

- Therefore, Eastern Quarter will be charged to appoint this Chairperson for 2011 – 2012.

- Quarterly Meeting Ministry and Counsels, or the designees, are asked to make their appointment as soon as possible after the annual Ministry and Counsel meeting, and inform the Clerk and Assistant Clerk of NCYM Ministry and Counsel.

- Once appointed, the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee is to begin serving immediately.

- Both the Friend appointed to chair the Nominating Committee, and that Quarter's representative to NCYM Ministry and Counsel, will serve on the Nominating Committee.

- We recommend that Quarters appoint their representative to NCYM Ministry and Counsel for more than a year period.

7. The rotating Quarter's appointed Chair of the Nominating Committee will also be a member of the NCYM Ministry and Counsel Executive Committee.

8. When a NCYM Ministry and Counsel position becomes vacant, it will remain vacant until Ministry and Counsel fills that position.

NCYM Ministry and Counsel Nominating Committee Rotation Schedule:

2011 Clerk – 3 year term; Assistant Clerk – 1 year term; Recording Clerks – 2 year term

2012 Assistant Clerk – 3 year term

2013 Recording Clerks – 3 year term

2014 Clerk – 3 year term

2015 Assistant Clerk – 3 year term

2016 Recording Clerks – 3 year term

2017 Clerk – 3 year term

2018 Assistant Clerk – 3 year term

2019 Recording Clerks – 3 year term

2020 Clerk – 3 year term

2021 Assistant Clerk – 3 year term

2022 Recording Clerks – 3 year term

Meeting approved these changes. These changes should be updated in the NCYM Administrative Handbook.

Christian Social Concerns Commission Report

Hugh Spaulding reported that a Peace Conference was held on Saturday, October 22nd, with about forty people in attendance. The message, presented by Dr. Bill Leonard, was followed by seven workshops that covered various aspects of the Peace Testimony. Participants included persons from several different denominational backgrounds. Hugh also announced an Art Contest that best depicts an answer to the question: How would you visually express this story of Peace? Winners will be announced at Midyear Gathering. Plans are being made for the observance of Peace Sunday on May 6, 2012.

Friends Disaster Service Report

Wiley Shore reported that Friends Disaster Service had been in Bertie County in mid October and worked on two houses. He thanked Up River Friends for their wonderful hospitality. He said that ten students from Guilford, seven from Montreat, and four adults from Indiana helped on this trip. They also met with

representatives of the General Assembly. They are planning to go back to Bertie County the Sunday after Thanksgiving. In January they will go down east again but don't yet know where. Wiley thanked everyone for supporting the work of Friends Disaster Service.

Minutes of Annual Sessions 2011

Clerk, Judy Ritter, asked if there were any additions or changes needed for the minutes. Brady Morrison raised questions regarding the reporting of a discussion following the reading of the Spiritual Life Commission Report. After much discussion, two paragraphs were changed. There were also some minor changes needed.

The minutes were approved as corrected.

Missions Committee

Pat Cheadle, reporting for Rodney Powell, expressed thanks from the Missions Committee for putting the emphasis on missions at Mid-Year Gathering last year and again this year.

Annual Sessions 2012

Clerk asked for approval for holding Annual Sessions 2012 at Blue Ridge Assembly on Labor Day weekend. This facility meets the needs for our young people well. **Meeting approved.**

Other Concerns

Mary Anna McCullen announced that the NCUSFW Spring Conference will be held on Saturday, May 5, 2012, at Bethesda. Ann Kendall will be the speaker. Mary Anna encouraged us to attend.

Clerk told us that the Porters were very appreciative of all that was done for them today.

Closing Minute:

There being no further business, this meeting concludes to meet March 3, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. at Quaker Lake. Remember what John Porter shared from Reuben B. Job's book Three Simple Rules That Will Change the World: Do no harm; do good; and stay in love with God.

Judy Ritter, North Carolina Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk
Darla Anderson, Recording Clerk