



2008 Triennial Sessions

July 9–13, 2008
High Point, North Carolina, USA



Minutes of the 2008 Triennial

Contents

Minutes of the Plenary Sessions. 5

Appendices:

A. Greeting and Epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting. 41
B. Executive Committee Report, 08-P-10 44
C. (Mike Cain's) Report, 08-P-11 47
D. List of workshops and descriptions 49
E. Kaimosi Hospital Task Force Report, 08-P-18. 52
F. Africa Ministries Office Report, 08-P-21 56
G. Invitation to 2011 Triennial, 08-P-25 62

Minutes of the Plenary Sessions of Friends United Meeting's 2008 Triennial Sessions High Point, North Carolina, July 9–13, 2008

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Evening Session

Organ music was presented by Mark Kirkman.

08-P-1 Brent McKinney, presiding clerk, spoke of the planning, preparation, and travel that brought Friends here, where we will gather for worship, Bible study, business sessions, tours, and fellowship. We will tell those we encounter back home about the good time we had and of our testing of equality, simplicity, community, and peace.

Mary Porter led the singing of “How Great Thou Art.”

Brent McKinney introduced the field staff on the platform. He introduced Kelly Kellum, the pastor of High Point Friends Meeting, who welcomed us to the campus.

David Girardi, the head of High Point Friends School, welcomed us to the school, which began in 1963 as a preschool and now runs through eighth grade.

Brent McKinney introduced John Porter, the superintendent of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (NCYM). John spoke of the anticipation of this day over the past few years and of the volunteer effort of NCYM, of the many contributions of vans and food and other necessities. John gave special recognition to Viola Britt and to the NCYM staff: Paul Routh, Darrin Allen, Darlene Pittman, Jennifer York, Stacy Culberts, and Janice Dalton. John said that they worked with the saying in mind, “Expect the unexpected and you won’t be disappointed.” He closed by affirming that this work was not done for the yearly meeting, but it was done to the glory of God. He offered it as North Carolina Yearly Meeting’s gift to the 2008 Triennial.

Brent McKinney gave a special welcome to Friends from Kenya with the traditional greeting of “Jambo!”

Brent McKinney introduced High Point’s mayor, Becky Smothers. She welcomed Friends to the city and spoke of the 150th anniversary of High Point’s founding next year in 2009. She spoke of High Point’s Quaker

heritage and of its early Quaker settlers saying that it was “truly through their perseverance their devotion to God helping mankind that our community got so strong.”

Brent McKinney offered prayer as the collection was taken.

Brent McKinney stated the theme for the 2008 Friends United Meeting Triennial. Jeremiah 29:11: “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” (KJV)

Brent McKinney gave a biographical introduction for the evening’s speaker, Sylvia Graves, General Secretary of Friends United Meeting. Sylvia Graves grew up in the heartland of America outside Indianapolis. She came from multi-generations of Friends, with relatives who served on mission fields. She graduated from William Penn College and Butler University, specializing in education. She began as a classroom teacher and was a principal when she retired. She has always been present and involved in the Quaker church, as a young person, in school, participating in Quaker studies programs, and on pilgrimages to Friends historic sites in England. All of this was before her involvement with the organization of Friends United Meeting. Now she travels widely among Friends.

08-P-2 Sylvia Graves spoke out of the silence following a time of special music provided by the Over the Hill Gang, consisting of Wayne Johnson, Ben Hurley, and Charlie Adams of NCYM. Ginger Osborne accompanied them on piano. They sang the hymns “Saved,” “His Name is Wonderful,” and “The King Is Coming.”

After gathering silence, Sylvia Graves rose to speak. She offered a State of Society report on the condition of Friends United Meeting. She asked all present to repeat the Purpose Statement:

“Friends United Meeting commits itself to equip and energize 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.”

Sylvia noted that this statement was adopted in 1991. It has been endorsed by many boards since then, including the current General Board.

In the past two years, Sylvia has found it valuable to attend different yearly meeting sessions and learn about the uniqueness of each yearly meeting. Each possesses different geographical challenges and demonstrates different degrees of conviction. But we are together as Friends United Meeting to join in responding to God’s call to be His people and to answer Jesus’ great commission to make disciples of all nations, to take the message of repentance to all people, and to feed His sheep.

Friends United Meeting addresses most of its business in meetings of the general board. People on the board take their responsibility

seriously. As members rotate on and off, there are times they work well together and sometimes not so well together. They have to represent their yearly meeting's interests and yet seek common ground as well. There has been good trust between board members. We have grown to appreciate each other. Many have fulfilled their appointment time on board, and starting in October we will have a new group.

Sylvia acknowledged that some board members are appointed by virtue of their positions in their yearly meetings, and not by calling to board service. It's not that they don't want to be part of board, but board service is not a priority for them. They are busy with their own ministries and can't give time beyond other work. Sometimes there is real tension on board, just as there is wherever people invest time and commitment. We don't all see eye to eye on how things should be done. Sometimes there is a difference in theology, or priorities, or knowledge about a topic. Quaker process is grounded in discerning the will of God. This can take more than meeting together three days at a time.

Also, people come from different experiences of efficiency and process in their yearly meetings. In the board meetings, do we seek to do business efficiently or do we give more time to process so the results are clearly the will of God? This has always been a challenge for the board.

Another challenge to the board is how to define global partnerships. What does global partnership look like? How often can we afford to have a meeting such as the one in February 2007 with both North American and African boards together? While it is a fact that the North American board and the African board have common business, some business is not common. Yet is very valuable for North American Friends to visit in Africa. We build relationships, and our meetings in Africa are growing. At that joint board session in 2007 a Kenyan Friend memorably reminded us: "While we church leaders are in here arguing, our people are out there perishing." What does that say about the way we do work as God's people?

One of our biggest struggles is to define who we are as an organization. Are we a not-for-profit with mission emphasis? Are we a denominational headquarters? Do we need common theological ground? In Kenya in February 2007, board members labored for hours into the night. As a result, many approved affirmation of the Richmond Declaration, but some did not. It was not made a requirement for membership. On the board, tension still exists and we must find a way to deal with it. Another tension is the hiring policy approved nineteen years ago, and it certainly adds to tension in the organization because of the underlying issues. What has been in place states that employees of Friends United Meeting are not to have sexual relations outside of marriage, which is understood as being between a man and woman.

Many believe that to be biblical truth. Many believe that homosexuality is a God-given trait that is being discriminated against. As dialogue on the personnel policy opens, tensions are so tight that the threat of splitting up has scared us into avoidance. We have been unable to come to unity about it. There may be a few who don't care how it turns out, but many opinions and feelings are strong. Board members are trying to represent your feelings. But many yearly meetings haven't come to unity themselves on this issue. Therefore it is unlikely that Friends United Meeting will come to unity in the near future, one way or the other. How do we handle that? As God's people? As peacemakers? What are we called to do? Some take out their frustrations by writing letters to the staff about a board policy. Some withhold support from the general fund. Some do not participate at all. Some former executive staff members have said that tension over the personnel policy was a factor in their leaving.

Moving from tensions and difficulties and the work of the general board, Sylvia went on to commend the Friends United Meeting staff. Our staff is made up of people who are industrious, creative, and resourceful. They have a heart for the ministries we support. One hundred percent of the staff members contribute to the General Fund through payroll deduction.

Sylvia cautioned us about operating with a skeleton staff. Even though the staff functions well as a team and shares the workload, there are many who are the only ones who know how to do essential parts of office procedures. There are no secretaries and file clerks or back-up people to do work in an emergency. There is the possibility of burnout with such a heavy workload for so few.

Sylvia spoke about learning, in her travels beyond the Richmond office, of the range of knowledge about and commitment to FUM of our constituent members. Many meetings have a Friends United Meeting mind-set. They seem to know that God calls the meeting to reach out globally to share the love of God. Other meetings have no clue that by virtue of membership in their yearly meeting, they have available to them channels for sharing that have been set up for over 100 years. Too many people don't get the message that Friends United Meeting is their ministry.

The staff is working to create an effective mailing list. Meanwhile, the general board's finance committee has studied the sources of our funds. The amount given by each North American yearly meeting was divided by the number of members according to yearly meeting records. They found that the amount of contribution per individual member of our constituent North American yearly meetings ranges from \$2 per member in one yearly meeting to \$81 per member in another. The average contribution per member to FUM is about \$26.

Given such a wide interpretation about the responsibilities that

yearly meetings accept, it is certainly a challenge to become a financially strong organization.

Sylvia turned next to the work in the field, beginning with Africa. The Africa Ministries Office was set up just over three years ago in Kisumu. John Muhanji is the Friends United Meeting coordinator, but he is hardly in the Kisumu office because he is out coordinating. He says there are about 2,000 monthly meetings in Africa, compared to 1,650 in North America. He is working on a census of members. He estimates that there are as many as 500,000 Quakers in Kenya. John works with leaders in Kenya to assist them in such areas as training treasurers and strengthening the curriculum of Friends schools to teach Quaker values. John has built incredible trust not just among African Friends but in the government.

Eden Grace is our field staff member serving as assistant to John Muhanji. She gives at least 200 percent of her effort to the responsibilities she has. She handles every penny channeled to the African office. This past year she has given considerable time to helping with the ASHA (American Schools and Hospitals Abroad) grant at Lugulu Hospital and overseeing financial matters at Kaimosi Hospital. Sylvia adds that Eden would want to publically recognize volunteers Judy Davis from Iowa Yearly Meeting, Lisa Stewart from Southeast Yearly Meeting, and Patricia Schrock from Iowa Yearly Meeting.

Friends United Meeting also supports initiatives begun by Kenyan Friends themselves. Kenyan Friends have said they will go to help people in Samburu and Turkana and share the Good News with them. Our goal at Friends United Meeting is to send \$2,000 a month to facilitate each of these ministries. We have fallen short of that goal in these past years. Both areas need vehicles. Each mission needs our help. We need to pay attention to those areas, because the funds are not there to make them healthy without our help.

Lindi Friends School was established in the Kibera slum in Nairobi by Kenyan Quakers. It is managed by AQUAVIS, a group of Kenyan Quaker businessmen, with minimal contributions from us. We need to improve our financial backing so teachers can be paid adequately and the school can be expanded and include a library and office.

Lugulu Hospital, managed by Friends, received an ASHA grant of \$450,000 four years ago. Eden Grace has been working hard to complete purchase of hospital furnishings and a computer system.

Kaimosi Hospital has been a focus of board attention, with a special task group named by the North American board to stay better informed about the complexities surrounding the hospital. The post-election violence interrupted discussions as to whether our support of Kaimosi Hospital is wanted or welcome. A little over \$80,000 has been collected and sent to Kaimosi Hospital for replacing the roof, paying salaries, and other operations. A newly constituted board of governors for the

hospital is making significant strides in planning steps for improvement, and the business of the hospital is picking up. We are very glad to see renovations and progress being made.

Friends Theological College is undergoing real growth. There is a great shortage of pastors. Ten years ago, there were about 25 students; last year there were 74; and this year 120. FTC is seeking government accreditation. In the midst of this growth challenge, Ben Richmond agreed to serve as interim principal for a year. His wife, Jody Richmond, has been teaching, too. She has also participated in the post-election violence peace teams, training others to do counseling. In April, ground was broken for new office space. Because of the devalued dollar and increased costs resulting from the post-election violence, we may have started something we can't finish without help. Ben Richmond's family has committed up to \$30,000 in matching grants to keep construction going on a library and on turning the existing administration building into a dorm.

Sylvia told Friends that in addition to all the work being done by such a small staff in Africa, the staff dreams of expanding and doing even more. They would like to add a minister of health and a minister of education to guide efforts to develop networks among Friends health services and schools. With those in place, John and Eden could work with churches and yearly meetings full time.

Sylvia turned to FUM's work in the Caribbean. In Belize, Mike and Kay Cain will be concluding thirteen years of service. They are fulfilled in this work but ready to step aside. An exploratory team has returned with a report that the opportunity for ministry is wide open in Belize. (There will be more extensive presentation and review during one of the plenary sessions.) FUM has no field staff in Cuba or Jamaica. In Cuba, the work is still limited. We send an annual work team, and we have established connections there. New England Yearly Meeting has adopted sister monthly meetings in Cuba. North Carolina Yearly Meeting has done amazing work in Jamaica. Otherwise Friends United Meeting has been ambiguous there. A support team is being formed to review the needs in Jamaica and to define the role that Friends United Meeting should take. The general board will need to consider the recommendation from this group. We need your prayers for how we can minister in Jamaica.

Sylvia next turned to Palestine, where Friends have been working since 1869. In summary, there are wonderful things happening in both schools. Construction at the girls school is being funded by grants and donors outside Friends United Meeting. At the boys school, there are also many renovations and construction projects thanks to Joyce Aljouny's persistence in applying for and getting grants. Ramallah boys school has benefited from several ASHA grants, resulting in improvements like a library, science building, computer lab, and many

upgrades to wiring and plumbing. Now Ramallah Friends School is more able to offer a rigorous curriculum, and nearly 100 percent of graduates go to college, with 30 percent going to U.S. colleges. But the school is also being challenged by the devaluation of the U.S. dollar, and the school has gone into debt trying to keep its promises to staff. We send U.S. money and it doesn't add up to as much when it gets there.

Sylvia next turned to what happens in Richmond. Much of the job at the Quaker Hill offices is to tell the stories of work just reviewed. The communication department manages Friends United Press, *Quaker Life* magazine, and other organizational material, such as field staff newsletters and brochures. Sylvia introduced Katie Terrell, the new communication editor, who shares management tasks with the communication designer, Shari Veach.

Sylvia announced that FUM has made great progress in finances, however, the organization is not yet totally debt-free. There is still debt from the bookstore. But while summer is a slow time of year to get everyone's contributions, we are doing better.

Sylvia concluded by sharing what she thought needed to happen for Friends United Meeting to thrive. More of our members must own this avenue of ministry. In the next three years, we need to double the number of monthly meetings that are involved and participating in the work. We need to be more effective at the yearly meeting level. Since the core work of this organization is overseas ministries, we need to financially back our projects. We must broaden the base of those who know and care about this work. To that end, Sylvia said, we have asked for names of Friends in your meetings whom others of us don't know. Another potential area for growth is developing programs for youth. Our young people need to know the stories of FUM's work in the field. In our U.S. culture so many are addicted to video games and sports. Many of our young people are looking for real things to do with real people to make a difference.

Sylvia queried Friends: "How can you involve another person, just one?" If each person brought one other person, Friends United Meeting would have amazing growth.

Sylvia concluded that her last hope for the organization is that we find unity in the work we do, even if we can't find unity on everything. She quoted the words a former professor taught her, reminding us that Friends United Meeting needs to do its work based on the integrity of love rather than on purity of doctrine. And she left us with two final queries: What if we don't have what it takes? What if we do?

Her presentation ended with all present being given balloons to bring to the platform and attach to a box labeled with a project or an area of Friends United Meeting's ministry that brought them joy and that they would like to see multiplied. Sylvia reminded us that we are directly in line with God's will when we feel real joy.

After Friends had completed their assignment, the platform was lined with a multicolored row of streamers and upward-lofting balloons, which Sylvia observed stood as a wonderful encouragement to all of us.

Sylvia closed the evening with prayer.

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Morning Devotions

Linda Selleck introduced the devotional time playing on the harp.

08-P-3 After inviting Friends to a period of centering down, Tom Hamm of Indiana Yearly Meeting, spoke on Jeremiah 29:10-14.

¹⁰For thus says the LORD: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹²Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile. (NRSV)

Hopefulness is not the dominant theme of Jeremiah. Jeremiah 13:25-27 is the more usual tone:

²⁵This is your lot, the portion I have measured out to you, says the LORD, because you have forgotten me and trusted in lies. ²⁶I myself will lift up your skirts over your face, and your shame will be seen. ²⁷I have seen your abominations, your adulteries and neighings, your shameless prostitutions on the hills of the countryside. Woe to you, O Jerusalem! How long will it be before you are made clean? (NRSV).

It speaks of the judgment of God on wicked people. But the bitterness of exile gives way to confidence in the mercy and love of God. This explains why the experience of this small group of people, 2,500 years ago still speaks.

Friends history is one of bitterness and loss. In 2008, some 350 years after the rise of Quakerism, the problems are stark. There is a decline in North American yearly meeting membership. There are bitter disputes over authority and sexuality. We have not treated each other with love, but more like Michael Moore meeting Rush Limbaugh. But we must not get too depressed. There is nothing new under the sun. In the seventeenth century, Friends were accused of being traitors and witches. In the eighteenth century in North America, Friends faced accusations of being on the wrong side, either with the Indians or the British. In the nineteenth century, Friends were attacked for their pacifist

witness during the Civil War, for advocating racial equality, and for subverting the Godly order of husband and wife in supporting women's voting. Very often we've been our own worst enemies. Consider James Nayler, John Parrot, the Story-Wilkinson hat issue, the marrying-out disownments, the schisms of the nineteenth century, which were usually bitter and usually carried out with the assertion that "we are the only REAL Quakers." Yet throughout, Friends have stood as a witness to the world: In the seventeenth century, a witness to primitive Christianity revived and living lives based on the Sermon on the Mount; in the eighteenth century, a witness to social justice as exemplified in the life of John Woolman; and in the nineteenth century, the reform work of Elizabeth Fry and Lucretia Mott. In the twentieth century, the lives and work of Rufus Jones, Thomas Kelly, Douglas Steere, Elizabeth Watson, and the founding of the AFSC and FCNL can hardly be said to be a failure. We also now have the growth of Quakerism in other parts of the world. More people are calling themselves "Quaker" than ever before.

But, back to Jeremiah and a future and a hope. Friends do not do well at foretelling the future. But prophesy is more than that. It is a confident call to righteousness. Its most important message is to be confident: its central message is that God is on our side. It's going to be all right.

Friends closed by singing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

Morning Business Session

The session was opened with the hymn, "To God Be The Glory." The Presiding Clerk, Brent McKinney, presented the Opening Minute, "As we gather on the beautiful campus of High Point Friends Meeting, we come with hope, proclaiming Jesus Christ as teacher and Lord, faithfully seeking our prosperous end."

We then settled into prayerful waiting.

08-P-4 Introductions

The Presiding Clerk, Brent McKinney, introduced the officers of FUM, Gary Farlow, Assistant Presiding Clerk; Kay Record Carter, Recording Clerk; Carol Holmes, Assistant Recording Clerk; Sylvia Graves, General Secretary; John Norris, Treasurer.

08-P-5 Delegates and Visitors

Yearly Meeting representatives in attendance:

Baltimore Yearly Meeting
Howard Fullerton
Rich Liversidge
Ken Stockbridge

John Smallwood
Walter Fry
Bronna Zlochiver
Andrei Israel
Mary Lord
Rily Robinson (Alternate)

Bware Yearly Meeting
Amwayi Ann Kubano

Canadian Yearly Meeting
Signy Fridriksson
Jane Zavitz-Bond

Central Yearly Meeting
Josephine Kavaya Imbayi
Wines Mavia

Chwele Yearly Meeting
Joseph mamai Makokha

East Africa (Kaimosi) Yearly Meeting
Busolo Beatrice Khavwenjesi
Tabitha Avoga Rafu
Pande Oburya Agamu Shadrack
Shem G. Siah

East Africa (North) Yearly Meeting
Joyce Mudeitsi Akifuma
Sammy Caxton Lwangasi Akifuma
Mugalavai James Idagiza

Elgon East
Masika Enes Nafula
Leanne Jerotich Kasembeli
Priscilla Nanyama Makhino
Mutoro John Kitui
Khaemba Murumba Wanjala
Wangila Isaac Wangala

Elgon RSF
Namachanja Tom Simiyu
Sychellus Wabomba

Great Plains Yearly Meeting
Ervin Stanley
Cliff Loesch

Indiana Yearly Meeting

Laura Key
John Key
John Norris
Don Garner
Sandy Davis
Doug Shoemaker
Susan Kirkpatrick
Aaron Hughs
Pat Shrock

Iowa Yearly Meeting

Ruthie Tippin
Lloyd McDonald
Ann Nichols
Margaret Stoltzfus

Kakamega Yearly Meeting

Odero Teresa Anyango
Wangia Jared Waudu
MacKenzie Geoffrey Shisumu
Laban Luhunya Agala
Charles Ligala
Bridget Luseno

Lugari Yearly Meeting

Konzolo William Bulimu
Bulimoh Simon Igesa
Ndenga Shem Liheeli
Eunice Muhonja Ndenga
David Zarembka
Gladys Kamonya

Nairobi Yearly Meeting

Robert Wafula
Hadley Kiharangwa Utswanga
Mbwanga Beatrice Nafula
Grace Rouz Alusa
Dorothy Aseyo Libale
Mmata Melisa Muhonja
Anne Shimuli Shipiri
Gimongo Samson Ababu
Joy Kasandi Kalembe
Jesca Kagota Aludira
Lukayu Alfred Alex Atonga

New England Yearly Meeting

Deana Chase
Ann Dodd-Collins
Susan Klein-Berndt
Macci Schmidt
Jay Smith
William Taber
Jonathan Vogel-Borne

New York Yearly Meeting

Christopher Sammond
Richard Goodman
Carol Holmes
Beatrice Beguin
Jens Braun
Regina Haag
Steven W Ross
Ann Davidson
Ruth Kinsey

North Carolina Yearly Meeting

Mrya Brady
Mike Fulp
John Porter
Etta Florence & Clifford Winslow
Billy Britt & Viola Britt
Gwen Headen
Walter Shore
Judy Ritter
Donna Terrell
Brady Morrison
Mike Fulp, Jr.
Will Allen
Jennifer York

Tuloi Yearly Meeting

Sagali Muhadia Phyllice

Vihiga Yearly Meeting

Maureen Ingasia Lisamadi

Vokoli Yearly Meeting

Azirikam Mudika Lubia
Mudasia Joyce Kageliza

Western Yearly Meeting

Dale Graves
Martha Robinson
Jo Ann Edwards
Joe Edwards
Jim Crew
Earl Smith
Norman Connell
Wayne Carter
Joyce Hollingsworth
CG White

Wilmington Yearly Meeting

Marvin Hall
Lois Hackney
Libby Curry
Nellda Friend
Matthew Zuehlke

Western Association

Dorothy Kakimoto
Robert Secord
Theodore Marshburn
Dorothy Andersen
Lynda Ladwig (Alternate)
Mary Marshburn (Alternate)

USFWI

Jennifer Hodge
Angella Beharie
Etta Florence Winslow

Visitors present at FUM Triennial Sessions July 9-13, 2008:

Margaret Fraser, FWCC Section of Americas
Arthur Boyd, FCNL
Oliver Robinson, Brittan Yearly Meeting
Florence Ntakarutimana, Burundi Yearly Meeting
Melissa Stoner, Friends Fiduciary Corp.
Kate Newlin, Pacific Yearly Meeting
Jocelyn Burnell, FWCC, Brittan Yearly Meeting
David Byrne, MAYM-EFC, Coalition Hispanic Ministries
Sara Byrne, MAYM-EFC
Sadie Forsythe, Friends General Conference
Valerie Groszmann, Friends General Conference
Howard Macy, Northwest YM

Mary Heathman, Rocky Mountain YM
Nancy Irving, North Pacific YM

08-P-6 Greetings

Mike Fulp, Presiding Clerk of North Carolina Yearly Meeting, extended greetings to the Triennial gathering. He spoke of the areas of ministry in which NCYM is involved: Mowa Choctaw, Quaker Lake, intern program, etc.

Viola Britt, Clerk of the local arrangements, thanked the many, many North Carolina Friends involved in the preparation and execution of these sessions. The areas of involvement are many: medical team, security, hospitality, communications, flowers, tours, transportation, etc. There were many volunteers, and they were very helpful in performing their duties.

Appreciation was expressed to all of these people.

A letter of greeting was also received from Britain Yearly Meeting. *The complete text is in Appendix A.*

08-P-7 Appointments to Triennial Committees

The names of yearly meeting appointments to the Triennial Sessions Nominating Committee are as follows: Marvin Hall (WiYM), Wayne Carter (WeYM), John Porter (NCYM), Margaret Stoltzfus (IoYM), Regina Haag (NYYM), Laura Key (InYM), Signy Fridriksson (Canadian YM), Ervin Stanley, (Great Plains YM), Rich Liversidge (BYM), Jonathan Vogel-Borne (NEYM).

Appointments to the New Business Committee were read. Don Garner (InYM), Elizabeth Cazden (NEYM), Myra Brady (NCYM), Norman Connell (WeYM), Jane Zavits Bond (Canadian YM), Allison Stanley (Great Plains YM), John Smallwood (BYM), Christopher Sammond (NYYM).

The Triennial Sessions Message Committee was appointed at this time: Laban Agala, (Kakamega YM); Shadrack Agamu (Kaimosi YM); C. G. White (WeYM); Doug Shoemaker (InYM); Micah Bales (Great Plains YM); and Minga Claggett-Borne (NEYM), convenor. This was approved.

08-P-8 Staff Remarks

Kim Newlin, Shari Veach and Katie Terrell talked about the silent auction, and the items that are available. Auction items were a quilt in honor of Eden Grace, an olive wood nativity scene provided by Joyce Ajlouny, rain-forest wooden items from Belize (coaster set, vase, desk set, cutting boards) provided by Mike and Kay Cain. These items are in the Book Store until the winning bids are announced on Saturday. Proceeds will go to support field staff.

Dale Graves talked about the T-shirts on sale by Quaker Men with proceeds to go to the Kenya relief efforts.

08-P-9 General Secretary's Report — Sylvia Graves

Sylvia told the sessions that the evening offerings were going to the General Fund and Field Staff support. The devaluation of the American dollar has affected the Field Staff since the present exchange rate is not as favorable. The General Fund also merits the support of Friends.

Sylvia was willing to answer questions from the floor. The questions included how she was enjoying her job, how do we know what mission field to work in, give examples of global partnerships, describe the work the field staff is doing, and how we can support and encourage the children of field staff. Recently the Grace children were endangered by the turmoil in Kenya.

08-P-10 General Board — Gary Farlow

Gary spoke of the staff changes that have occurred during the triennial. The reduction in staff in the central offices and the elimination of the Quaker Hill Book Store has produced a positive cash flow. A Strategic Plan is in place with goals and timetables for action. The identity issue has been one that the General Board has spent time on, "what does it mean to be a member of Friends United Meeting?"

The General Board report was approved.

The morning session closed with the Kenyan Friends singing and with prayer.

The complete report is in Appendix B.

Afternoon Business Session

The session opened with the singing of "Victory In Jesus" and prayer by the Presiding Clerk.

08-P-11 Global Ministries Report — Terri Johns

Terri asked the Field Staff to share their experiences.

Angela Behari, Friends Education Council in Jamaica, asked to speak first. She thanked NCYM for its support of Vacation Bible School. FEC administers two homes in Highgate. The Swift-Purcell Boys School is rebuilding after the damaging fire that took place last year. The Lyndale Girls School is temporarily closed because the building is undergoing extensive repairs. The Happy Grove High School at Seaside is looking for a principal. FEC hopes the young people can be trained to take over the work.

Judy Davis, a nurse from Iowa YM, spoke of some of her experiences at the Kaimosi Hospital. She expressed appreciation for Dr. Bob Carter's help in upgrading the hospital facilities and staff. Much can be done by Friends in the United States to encourage this work.

Pat Shrock, an Indiana YM Friend, serving recently in Belize, reminded us that the Field Staff need personal support in notes and

cards. A new person coming in finds it very helpful to have someone present who knows the culture. She also spoke with appreciation of the work of Mike and Kay Cain who are retiring. They say “It is better to build boys than repair men.” quoting T. D. Jakes.

Mike and Kay Cain described their work in the Boys School in Belize. Mike spoke of how his “cup has been filled by the Lord”. The work in Belize is important to the boys who are tutored and encouraged, and how, knowing this, it is rewarding.

Mike presented a PowerPoint of the work in Belize. *The complete report is in Appendix C.*

Mike’s cup has been filled!

Evening Session: The Betty Carter Peace Lecture

Friends settled into worship to music from a saxophone choir.

Presiding Clerk, Brent McKinney, welcomed Friends to the evening session, affirming what a wonderful day it had been and was going to be tomorrow. John Muhanji led in prayer, and Friends sang “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.”

Brent McKinney invited the evening’s visitors from North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative) to stand and be welcomed. There were about 40 of these guests.

It was announced that the evening offerings were to be evenly divided between the missionary field accounts and the general fund. Wednesday evening’s total was \$926 plus 150 Kenyan shillings. The ushers came forward to take the offering. Brent led Friends in prayer. Friends sang “It Is Well with My Soul.”

08-P-12 Wayne Carter told Friends about establishing the Betty Carter Peace Lecture. When Betty Lynn Carter died suddenly in 1984, it seemed appropriate to use memorial contributions and some family funds to establish a peace lecture in her name at Earlham. This lecture has been given there each spring since 1986. As a 1979 political science graduate of Earlham and as a radio news reporter, Betty Lynn wanted to make a difference in community life in Richmond. As a Quaker she was concerned about Friends efforts to meet needs across the world. Those who attended Friends United Meeting Triennials in 1981 and 1984 remember Betty Carter presenting the morning’s national and international news to the gathered sessions. She was aware that many were away from home and from their regular news sources. That was her gift to those travelers. Even though the lectureship was established at Earlham, Earlham’s president, Doug Bennett, approved extending Earlham’s support to have this special Betty Carter Peace Lecture given at the 2008 Friends United Meeting Triennial sessions.

Wayne Carter introduced Landrum Bolling, the Betty Carter peace lecturer for 2008. Landrum served as president of Earlham from 1958 to 1973, and then president and chairman of board of the Lilly Endowment. In 1982 he became research professor of Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. Through his years of non-official up-close involvement in Middle East affairs, he became well acquainted with many leaders on all sides. From time to time, he has served as an informal messenger between leaders who had difficulty communicating directly with each other. He served as a link for the White House and the State Department under more than one presidential administration. He maintains close relationships even now with many leaders. He recently returned from a two-week visit to the Middle East. Landrum Bolling is currently director at large of Mercy Corps international nonprofit volunteer organization to alleviate poverty, suffering, and oppression, in especially needy areas of world. He is senior adviser and board member of a conflict management group and senior fellow at the Center for International Policy in Washington, D.C. Landrum Bolling is well into his nineties. Wayne said that he understood Landrum was 93 but he hadn't checked. Landrum is still working, traveling, speaking, and helping to unite people in peaceful relationships. He has been awarded honorary degrees by more than thirty United States and foreign colleges.

Landrum Bolling is widely recognized as a most effective ambassador for peace. His home remains in Richmond, Indiana, where he continues to be a member of Clear Creek Meeting.

Landrum Bolling thanked Wayne for his introduction. He said, "When I hear something like that, I think people will think what a schizophrenic guy that is that can't make up his mind what he will be when he grows up. I'm 94, though. Not 93." Landrum went on to say how much the evening's music meant to him, especially the hymn, "It Is Well with My Soul," which caused him to "tear up," because he knew the Spofford family, the descendants of Horatio Spofford, who wrote the hymn. Only a few weeks ago, he checked into a hotel in Jerusalem where he asked about the last remaining member of the family, the widow of Horatio who was the grandson of the hymn's composer. Since his return he has learned that Horatio's widow had died. The Spofford family was one of the most remarkable families Landrum ever knew. They are a symbol of the best of those living in the Holy Land who make friends of people on both sides and who witness for peace. Landrum characterized the Spoffords as a generous, wonderful, spiritually oriented family whom he was privileged to know. It touched him to be singing that hymn tonight.

Landrum explained the title of his lecture, "Renewing the Quaker Testimony on Peace." He exhorted Friends to reexamine who we are, what we really believe, where we are going in our lives, and what we

want to accomplish. Friends can't just navel-gaze and be introspective. We need to answer these existential questions. We need to think seriously about what this testimony of peace that Quakers have talked about for years really means to us today. We need to understand the consequences of such ideas.

Landrum confessed his discomfort about the phrase "historic peace churches." There is an implied smugness in how special we are, we peace churches. There are a lot of people in other denominations in peace churches.

As an example, Landrum spoke of his Catholic friend, Father Ted Hesburgh, former president of Notre Dame. (Landrum added, "He's past 90, but not quite as old as me.") Landrum has come to know a great deal about Catholics, about how liberal many are and how devoted to peace. Father Ted was an evangelist for the idea that colleges and universities should get on the issue of peace, should put it in their curriculums. In San Diego a woman from the audience came up to him and asked about his idea and how much money it would take to get the project started. She was the widow of the man who invented McDonalds. And so Father Ted got up his nerve and said that with \$8 million he could start. So she wrote him a check. Over the years she provided funds for him, and later she developed a similar program. Landrum had the opportunity to speak there only two weeks ago, so he has seen how this commitment to peace is not just something peace churches have. Rather than the term "Quaker testimony of peace," Landrum is more comfortable with "Christian testimony of peace." Or "divine call to peace."

Landrum continued with several stories of witnesses to peace of whom he had personal knowledge. First was an Israeli violinist who went to jail for refusing either to claim a religious waiver to military service or to do military service.

Brother Andrew was a Dutch conservative evangelical Christian who became well known for smuggling Bibles into iron curtain countries. Several years ago, when the defense minister of Israel decided to round up all Palestinian nationals, they ended up in a no man's land on an Israeli mountainside in winter. Brother Andrew heard about this and went to see these radical Palestinians on the mountainside, all of them Muslims. He made friends with them, heard their stories, took pictures, had them write messages to their families, which he delivered. A few months later he was able to go back to the camp, which was now better set up, and the Palestinians put a feast on for Brother Andrew. He said when they got out, he would come to Gaza and put on a feast for them. Eleven months later the Israelis let them go home, and 200 of them showed up for Brother Andrew's feast. He confessed to Landrum that when he saw the crowd, he wasn't sure what he would do—but he had a feast. At the end of the celebration, one of the Palestinians said

they wanted him to make a speech. He asked what he should speak about. They said, whatever you want to speak about. He said, "I speak about Jesus". They said "OK". So he gave them a speech about Jesus and made it clear that what he had done was because he was trying to be a follower of Jesus. When he finished the speech, one leader asked if he could give that speech at the Islamic university, and he did. A few students walked out, but most stayed to hear the speech about Jesus in the Islamic university. No other Christian on earth ever had that kind of opening. And he was able to rise to the occasion. Brother Andrew is a witness for peace. He is a spokesman for the divine call to peace.

Landrum told Friends that just this past week he had been with his old friend Jerry Levin, the former CNN bureau chief for the Middle East. Jerry had been captured years ago in Beirut. They shoved him in a car, drove off, and kept him in solitary confinement for eleven months. He said to himself, "I will go crazy. What can I do? I will talk to God. But I don't believe in God. I'm an atheist." (Jerry's grandfather had been the chief rabbi of Detroit, but his father rebelled against his father and became a lawyer and an atheist, and Jerry had been brought up in this home.) But in solitary confinement in Lebanon Jerry began to ask himself if he could really believe in God. He said to himself, "I can't talk to God if I don't believe in him, but I gotta talk to somebody." Landrum reported that for twenty-four hours, Jerry Levin had a nonstop argument whether he could believe in God or not. After twenty-four hours, God spoke to him in clear tones. Jerry has said that talking to God saved his sanity and his life. After some months of talking to God every day, Jerry realized that he didn't know anything about God. He'd never read the Bible, or anything. He began to pester his non-English-speaking guards to bring him a Bible. They finally brought him a pocket-size New Testament with the book of Psalms and Proverbs, and he began to read and read it, again and again. He showed Landrum the notes he wrote in the margin.

Landrum said that when Jerry got back to the United States, he talked about the importance of reconciliation, about how important it is to get into dialogue with people who are enemies. He was now a Jew who had recently been an atheist. This was too much for CNN. It did not greatly please the U.S. State Department either. And eventually CNN eased him out. Now he has joined Christian Peacemaker Teams. He goes and stands on street corners just to watch to see what's going on. If an Israeli soldier is about to beat someone, Jerry is there to observe. Over and over again, soldiers ask for his passport. They look at his passport. They say, "You are a Jew. What are you doing here?" He is a witness for peace.

Landrum went on to speak of both an Israeli general and a Muslim doctor he knew, both of whom became voices for peace and reconciliation. The general retired from the military and was elected to

parliament. He was determined to make contact with the PLO at a time when the PLO could not be touched by anyone, not even Americans. He was told that it was against the law. He said, "Yes, I know it's against the law but I'm gonna do it." His efforts eventually opened the door to contact with the PLO.

The Muslim doctor had been trained at the Cleveland Clinic and went back to be a doctor for the PLO and became a fighter himself. Suddenly, it came to him that he was saved, as an inspiration from God. He said, "We keep talking in the PLO about a military option. This is nonsense. This will get us nowhere. We have to sit down and talk with the other side. We have to find a way to reconciliation. I have blood on my own hands but there is no hope in that direction." He became a champion inside the PLO for peace. Landrum had the pleasure of being involved with him on many occasions, and introduced him to many leaders. He was a chain smoker. Landrum asked him why, as a medical doctor, he smoked like that. He said he knew that he was going to be killed and he meant to enjoy himself as long as he could. Within about a year it happened. Someone came up behind him and fired a bullet into his head. He was a voice for peace. He was a Muslim fighter-doctor, and he was a voice for peace.

Landrum said to Friends that there are many voices for peace in the world. We need to claim them as our friends. He is nervous about talking about the Quaker peace testimony when so many are out there making testimonials. He exhorted Friends to look at the major principles of the peace testimony. You know what they are, he said.

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Love your neighbors as you love yourself.

Pray for those who spitefully use you.

Recompense no man evil for evil.

As much as lies within you, live peaceably with all men.

If your enemy hungers, feed him. If he thirsts, give him drink.

Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called children of God.

We know that. This is part of our childhood. These are basic principles.

Landrum said to Friends that there are consequences to ideas. There are consequences to beliefs. Landrum said that he did not believe you can really make a clear division between religious faith and practice and political action. There are political consequences of what we do or fail to do. This is what we must come to terms with. Today we face serious challenges in the world. We need to look at the political consequences of our beliefs.

Landrum said that he had recently read a report in the *New York Times* of a statement by the former Republican secretaries of state James Baker and George Schultz saying that America faces a crisis of

presidential power. In recent years a trend has started that the president, as commander in chief, has virtually unlimited power to decide what is to be done about peace. Mr. Bush, under what Landrum named to Friends as the “evil guidance of Cheney” and others, has usurped power from the field of foreign affairs. Colin Powell had no chance to be secretary of state. They took that power from him. This team has pushed as hard as they can to expand the powers of the president to have unlimited decision-making over issues of war and peace. Now we have two former secretaries of state saying this has to stop. In making a witness for peace, have we anything to say about this kind of thing? Landrum said, “I think we should.”

Landrum went on, asking Friends to consider what’s to be done about the future of Iraq and Afghanistan. The end is nowhere near. What will we do about it? “I don’t know,” Landrum confessed. But, he continued, this cannot go on. We are faced with a responsibility unequal in the history of the western world to find ways to deal with people different from us—different in religion, in economics, and in beliefs. We have the largest military establishment in the world. We spend more on arms than all other countries put together. Now we talk about the threat of Iran. We have all this military might—bombs and everything else—and we think Iran is about to attack us. The politicians in Washington are pushing to start a war with Iran. If not directly, they are pushing to get Israel to do it. The Israelis have a big air force. They just put on an exercise last week. Planes and tankers drove a 900-mile course to show they could do a 900-mile trip into Iran as a demonstration. Where is this going? What will it lead to?

Landrum told Friends that as he looks at the political problems we face today, the number one issue is preventing war against Iran.

Landrum affirmed, again, his belief in the Quaker peace testimony. It is shared by many people of faith around the world. It is urgent for people around the world to come to terms with this issue. As citizens, we Friends must use our influence at the grass roots, in our communities, in local newspapers, to get out the message of the importance of working for peace.

In recent trips to the Middle East, Landrum spent time in Gaza. It’s hard to get in there, but working with a relief agency gave him a way. He was amazed at what he found, amazed at the resilience of people, amazed at the extent to which these people in the most terrible circumstances have not given up and have not become hate-filled. But Friends need to know, Landrum said, that there is not a chance that these people will rise up and overthrow Hamas.

Landrum went to see a family in the center of the Gaza Strip that he had known for some time. The father is the head of the only coeducational school in Gaza. Landrum asked him if Hamas gave him a hard time about being a coeducational school, about mixing the sexes.

He answered that Hamas gave him full support because they trust him. They believe he is doing a good job. He talked about how important that trust is in reconciliation.

Landrum announced that the moral of all this is: Do not give up hope. He does not know how it will resolve. He sees no indication whatsoever that it will happen anytime soon. The Annapolis Middle East peace initiative, he thinks, is well meaning, but President Bush wanted something to happen too late. Seven years went by with nothing coming forward about the peace issue. It won't happen now. But the important thing is not to give up hope.

Landrum acknowledged that some people say to him that he is a most naive person, that people will keep killing there. But Landrum knows so many fine, wonderful, decent, honorable Jews and Israelis who believe that peace is possible and are willing to live for it and die for it. And he knows the same kind of Palestinians who also believe peace is possible. They do not give up, Landrum said, "so I won't give up either. And I pray that you will pray with me that we not give up. That we keep reaffirming the traditional Quaker testimony for peace. Link to people of other faiths if you are able to do that. We have been given an insight into reality, into the truth of human relations. We belong to each other. We need each other. We are all children of God. There is a bumper sticker I like that says: God bless everybody, no exceptions.

"Reconcile us. Make us love each other. No exceptions."

Brent McKinney thanked Landrum Bolling for challenging us with hope. Brent closed the session with prayer: "Lord we are grateful for your presence, for your gift of hope that you have birthed within us and encouraged tonight. Lord help us be peacemakers, reconcilers, and bringers of the hope that lies in our Lord Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen. Go in peace."

Friday, July 11, 2008

Morning Devotions

Friends sang "Holy, Holy, Holy" led by Donna Shore Terrell, with piano accompaniment by Lynwood Winslow.

08-P-13 John Muhanji welcomed Friends, reminding them that this was a great day that the Lord had made, and that something special would be happening to someone today.

John Muhanji asked Friends from Kenya to come forward to sing a Hallelujah. John translated the words for the benefit of North Americans: "The blood of Jesus makes me whole."

John Muhanji acknowledged the challenge of being understood

with his Kenyan accent, and, for his part, of understanding the English spoken by Friends from North Carolina. He said that it's a good challenge to face as we take time to learn to understand each other.

John said that his theme for the day's devotions was "Generosity and Mission." Friends United Meeting exists to do mission work, to give hope, to reach and touch somebody somewhere. Generosity and hope are inseparable. It is through generosity that we are able to understand the love of God (1 John 3:16). We ought to lay down our lives for those who are our brothers and sisters.

When the first missionaries brought the Good News of the Gospel to the Kenyan church, it was through generosity. The book of Acts gives an account of the mission work of the first Apostles. They were commissioned in Acts 1:8. John noted that the role that generosity plays in evangelism is often overlooked. The missionary witness began at home and spread outward as a result of the generous lifestyle and culture of the Christian community (Acts 2:4-7). This was imitated and repeated by George Fox and the early Friends, who first met in homes and who then began sending messengers out. These Quaker messengers reached America through generosity and through the compassion of the people.

Church mission work is grounded in the culture of generosity. It is not a business venture but a culture of generosity. It is through generosity that we built a school in Belize. Is it enough, John exhorted Friends, that we just sit and thank God for the Friends who are there in Belize? Or do we plant a church in Belize beside the school? We don't exist just to be here, but to think about the next three years. Who will we reach? Who will we touch in the next three years? Ask yourselves, "What have I done to help the growth of FUM? What have I done to witness to the power of Christ?" Ask these questions of yourself as an individual and of your yearly meetings. What are you doing to carry out the mission of Jesus?

Generosity is the fruit of the Gospel, and it was the fruit of Paul's missionary work as well. When the church in Antioch that had been shepherded by Paul learned about the famine coming to the church in Judea, it sent aid back to Jerusalem (Acts 11:25-30). The generosity of the Gospel came full circle.

In the world today, we fear because our generosity level is going down. But when Friends were told about the unexpected situation in Kenya, they responded, and, as a result, people began realizing the importance of the Friends Church.

Today some could see Friends United Meeting as dormant. It has no new missions. We must ask, Is the Word limited or unlimited? The 2008 Triennial should set up a new dimension—whether the economy is good or bad. There is always going to be an economy. We cannot hide behind it.

When we, as the contemporary Quaker church, integrate the message of the Gospel with the practice of sacrificial generosity, we imitate not only the example of the early church but the head of the church, Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 8:9). Jesus is calling us to stand up beyond our own egos.

May God help us to meet this challenge.

Friends closed Morning Devotions by singing “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” and by praying together.

Morning Business Session

08-P-14 Global Ministries Report, continued

Joyce Ajlouny, Ramallah Friends School, said there are days when she asks herself “why am I living in Ramallah?” The answer is in the Ramallah Friends School as it is making a difference in Ramallah and Palestine. Many times she hears, “If it weren’t for the Friends School...”

She feels there is increasing hope for peace in Ramallah and feels that the school can motivate the students away from violence and towards peace. Joyce’s job is to keep a Quaker Presence using the Quaker values and principles. FUM has helped “fill her cup” also.

Lisa Stewart, Southeastern YM, spoke of her recent volunteer experiences in Kenya, assisting Eden Grace in the Africa Ministries Office (AMO), and assisting a Friends Church Peace Team (FCPT). She expressed a need for Quaker books in Kenya, books of historical and current Quaker emphasis.

Sampson Ababu, working with Aquavis, spoke of the Friends work in the Lindi Friends School in Nairobi, and of the feeding program for the students provided by Aquavis. Many of the students are Muslim and the teachers are mostly volunteers. It is hoped the teachers can receive a small salary.

Joseph Makokho, Chewle YM, spoke of his involvement with the FCPT and the work they have done following the post-election turmoil. Many people voted in the election with high expectations but the results were extreme disappointment and frustration when unexpected results were announced. This led to much violence and many internally displaced persons (IDP).

Ben and Jody Richmond, Friends Theological College (FTC), spoke of the many responsibilities they have been called to assume. Jody’s skills as a social work counselor with trauma cases has been invaluable in working with displaced Kenyans following the election. She has accompanied some of the Friends Peace Teams. Ben spoke of the work with the Board of Governors of FTC. The growth of the student population has created needs for dormitory space, handbooks

of policies and procedures, etc. Ben showed a PowerPoint on FTC. The Kenyan yearly meetings are committed to training for their ministers.

Eden Grace, Africa Ministries Office (AMO), shared that God is using African Friends in many ways. They are being “energized and equipped”. We need to be diligent in the right use of our resources in developing our Friends ministries. It is important to sow the seeds of God’s peace and reconciliation before the next general election. Eden spoke of the evacuation of her family from Kisumu following the recent election, making it extremely difficult for her to function as treasurer of AMO while living in Nairobi.

The text of the Field Staff reports is in the Appendix.

Terri Johns closed the Global Ministries report emphasizing that this is OUR Field Staff and merits OUR support. The reports were approved.

Afternoon workshops and their descriptions can be found in Appendix D.

Evening Session: The Johnson Lecture

Friends assembled as organ music drew us together.

Brent McKinney shared his thoughts with Friends on the perfection of the day and how the Spirit among us was so tender and sweet. He asked how it could get any better and then realized, “If it gets any better than this, we won’t be here. We’ll be somewhere else.”

Donna Shore Terrell complimented Friends on the quality of their singing so far and led the hymn “Make Me a Blessing.”

Brent McKinney asked Priscilla Mukhino to lead prayer. We were blessed as she lifted our hearts and spirits to the Lord.

Donna Shore Terrell led Friends in singing “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.”

Brent McKinney, with prayer, called the ushers forward for the evening’s offering. He then spoke to Friends while the collection was being taken, about the compliments he’d been hearing about the beautiful facilities at High Point Friends Meeting, the grounds, the campus, and the meals. All have been appreciated so much. He went on to say that if we keep having such good Triennials as this, we might need to find a larger place. He added that he’d heard the suggestion that we are having such a great time, maybe we should have these Triennial sessions more often.

Donna Shore Terrell introduced the 2008 Friends United Meeting choir. She asked Friends to think about something while the choir was getting ready. She lifted up that Friends United Meeting is a group of people from all over the world, from all walks of life, all races, from conservative beliefs, from liberal beliefs, together for the common

purpose for spreading the goods news of salvation offered to us by Jesus throughout the world. She went on to say that the chorus we were going to hear had spent a total of 60 minutes together to prepare their songs. She said, "When you hear what this group of people has done you will wonder why we haven't lit a fire across the world. It has nothing to do with who is the leader or who is in charge or whose idea. It is only because these people have the joy and love of the Lord they want to share. I offer you our Triennial choir, singing 'As I Went Down to the River to Pray' and 'Come and Kneel at the Cross'".

Billy Britt thanked the choir for their singing and their message.

Billy Britt announced that there would be free copies of tonight's lecture by John Punshon available outside, along with the 1987 Johnson Lecture that John Punshon gave at Guilford College at our Friends United Meeting Triennial, which would be available for a free-will donation.

Billy Britt thanked Brent McKinney for his six years of service as Friends United Meeting clerk. Friends stood and joined in the thanks for Brent.

08-P-15 Billy Britt introduced John Punshon, a native of London. He is known in his professions of law, theology, journalism, and public speaking. He is married to Veronica and they have two children, Tom, who is an executive with a London financial futures exchange, and Sophia, who is a professional dressmaker. John and Veronica have four grandchildren. John has a longtime interest in sailing, partly because he lives near docks in London. He is an elder of Milton Keynes meeting and a recorded minister in Indiana Yearly Meeting. He serves on the theology commission of the Milton Keynes council of churches. Being a grandfather is one of his greatest pleasures, apart from food and watching sports on TV. He is the author of several books, among them *Reasons for Hope* and *Encounter with Silence*. A few years ago, he retired after teaching at Earlham School of Religion. In 1987 he was also the Johnson Lecturer in North Carolina at the FUM Triennial.

John Punshon told Friends that the first Friends United Meeting Triennial he attended was in California. As he listened to the music there and looked around, a Friend asked him, "Do you know what's going on here?" And John replied, "Yes. I know exactly where I am." What lay behind that reply was that he looked around then, as now, and he saw the kind of faces he knew and grew up with, faces like his grandparents', like his parents'. John explained that, probably, the reason he had been able to give the service he has to Earlham and Friends United Meeting is that he felt so at home.

John acknowledged that he had many memories crowding in on him. He gave a special welcome to Kenyan Friends as he remembered his first visit to Kenya as a representative in 1991 to the Friends World Gathering.

John said that when he was contacted by Trish Edwards-Konic to

come give this talk, she suggested he use it as an opportunity to write the next chapter to *Reasons for Hope*. This is what he has done, and there is a 40-page last chapter waiting for Friends outside.

Rather than duplicate the printed text, John explained that he intended to offer Friends a kind of meditation on what the printed text contains, a meditation on hope and a future. He gave his chapter the title “Living in the New World” for three reasons. First, this is what Jeremiah’s prophecy is about. Second, at every juncture in history we move into a new world. It will be a new world tomorrow. The new is always fresh, unexpected, and challenging, and we need to be prepared for that fact of life. We are always moving into a new world. Third, Friends tend to be introspective. In the chapter John talks in the widest possible context about the future of Friends and is not always interested in the internal conflicts we have.

John described the context in which Jeremiah wrote around 770 B.C. Social conditions were dire. There was real fear that annihilation would come to the community. Jeremiah 29:11 was a prophecy of hope in a very grim time. Jeremiah particularly criticized idolatry. An idol is something that gives you comfort. There are two ways you can look at a religious image. One is to place yourself in its power, place yourself in the power of what it represents. That’s not idolatry. But to go to the Cross to get personal benefit, to seek only the messages from the religious tradition that confirm the attitude you already have is to use the Cross as an idol for your own purpose. What do you want to get out of religious life?

John emphasized that Jeremiah’s prophecy of hope and a future were to come to those who were in confinement. The exiles weren’t exactly in prison, but they were in confinement.

Shifting his focus from Jeremiah, John next urged Friends to read Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn’s *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. It is a book about the life of a man who had every single freedom taken away, who had to live a completely regimented life. He came to the conclusion that no one could get inside his head, no one could control him, and therefore in the battle against tyranny he was always going to win. Ivan begins to define himself in captivity. He knows his boundaries, his desires, etc., and he knows the desires of those in charge of him. This, John thinks, is historically what happened to the Jewish people. Jeremiah’s words of redemption would only become reality if the Jews continued in their devotion to God. They understood who they were by measuring themselves against the standards of their captors. And they had to do this by remembering their own story.

Who we have been decides who we are and how we meet the challenges of the external world.

John next invited Friends to consider the constraints upon the practice of religion and the practice of the Quaker faith as the 21st

century gets under way. John sees certain attitudes prevalent today. First, people are more interested in opinions than news. Opinions are much more interesting. Second, the world doesn't understand that to explain human behavior is not to condone it. In our perfectly proper efforts to understand the reasons for social pathology, we tend to overlook the standards against which behavior ought to be measured. Third, there are a lot of people who think we can ultimately explain everything. John doesn't think so. Life has areas of mystery, areas of tragedy, areas of all kinds of things in our experience we can't explain. Finally, John announced that although he grew up in a progressive household, he does not believe the world is getting better and better. He does not believe in progress. We live in a world full of information, but information is not wisdom.

John explained that he was trying to point to the areas where the assumptions we make in our religious community are not borne out by the wider society at large. If we want to communicate, we have to understand where people are coming from. And if we don't understand that, we won't get anywhere.

Next, John talked to Friends about his own personal journey. First, he has never doubted the existence of God, although he has doubted God's presence in his life. We all have had dry periods. We all have had dark nights of the soul. But John never lost his faith in the existence of God. That stability is difficult for people to understand who haven't had that same experience. We think others are like us and they are not. John was brought up in the country on a farm. He had a wonderful time as a child. He knew the reality of a divine presence in the streams and fields, the animals and birds. That experience was an inward one. He has always had the deep sense that he is in the world, not a spectator. In hymns and Bible stories, John found a corresponding reality. When he was 19, he found the Society of Friends and believed then, as he does now, that this is as close as you can get to Christianity of our Lord. That's why he has been here fifty years.

John understands why he became a Friend. Why does he remain one? He remains one because the Society of Friends has a dogma he holds to. It is a truth that is to be received on faith and John finds it to be as absolutely true as it is totally undemonstrable. That dogma is that there is that of God in everyone. The cynic in John says, 'Who's counting? That's the only way to prove it.' But John is a man of faith, which means that he doesn't need proof. His sense of the truth of the dogma grows wider and deeper every day of his life—for example, as he was sitting last night listening to the stories Landrum Bolling told.

Another reason he remains a Friend is because of the distinctiveness of our ecclesiology. We are all ministers, some of whom have a pastoral function. John reads the New Testament and finds that the way we make decisions, the way we come together at a monthly meeting, is what the

church of the disciples was like.

John admitted that there were many things he didn't believe in when he was 19 that he does believe in now. He spoke of being grateful that nobody taught him he had to believe. There were wise people in his meeting who sensed he was on the path and let him find his way himself.

John cautioned Friends that we need to be very careful when we start making requirements of what people ought to believe to come into the fellowship of a meeting.

John explained why: "I can't imagine a greater joy than I have when I have my quiet time with God, when I go to meeting on Sunday morning or Saturday nights, or when I pray for the three congregations I am particularly associated with. I know my journey is coming to end, but it's been a wonderful journey because Friends gave me the freedom to develop and discern. They never forced me into anything. I believe there is liberty in the Gospel, and that is very precious."

John asked what have we got to go on today? Where do we stand? How do we stand? Wouldn't it be good if we had a joint Friends United Meeting-Friends General Conference gathering? Wouldn't it be good? Why don't we?

If we go back to the 1940s or further back to the period of the First World War, it was difficult for Friends in the different branches to talk because they had no common vocabulary. Now we do talk. We use our history rather than our theology as a means of talking. And that's good. It means we have a terminology with which we can encounter difficult ideas. But recently the terms in which theology is done have changed. Theology for the reflective church member used to be about locating oneself on the liberal-evangelical spectrum. Now, since the advent of postmodernism, theology is about locating foundations.

John concluded by listing for Friends his reasons for hope. First is the way we do theological discussions using our history. The coming together of scholars to work together on issues of history and principles is extremely important. Carole Spencer has just produced a thesis and published a book, which John suspects is revolutionary.

John's second reason for hope is the School of the Spirit, coming out of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. John urged Friends to visit its display and to take pamphlets and become informed about it.

John's third reason for hope is the strength of Friends United Meeting in Africa. From the Kenyan and Latin American experience come things we desperately need to know about how unimportant personal possessions are and how important Quaker community is.

John's fourth reason for hope is the quality of the pastors in our meetings. There are people coming forward who might not have particular academic skills but who are pastors in their hearts. John is constantly impressed and giving thanks for their gifts.

John concluded by saying that these had been some of the things he had written about in the printed Johnson lecture. He hoped he had said enough to encourage Friends to take a copies.

Katie Terrell thanked John for reminding Friends that we do have reasons for hope and that we can move forward with encouragement and excitement.

Saturday, July 12, 2008

Morning Devotions

Ben Richmond led Friends in prayer and introduced Joseph Makokha, the clerk of Chwele Yearly Meeting.

08-P-16 Joseph Makokha, asked Kenyan Friends to come forward and sing a hymn for him. After some 40 Kenyan Friends sang, Joseph explained that the song was asking, “Who can I send?” And the answer was, “Send me. But my lips are unclean. God burn them with fire and make them holy. Then send me. But I have fear. I’m too young, too young to preach your word in that place I’m going to. Send me, Lord. Send me.”

Joseph said that the song expressed his own feelings preaching to Friends on this morning. But God told him, “Don’t fear.”

Joseph said he looked at himself and maybe he was not suitable enough to tell Friends what the Spirit told him.

Joseph repeated the words of Jeremiah 29:11. Humanly, it’s a very strong statement. It is a promise one can rely on. It’s not given to just anyone but to a special person and to a large group.

The authority making the statement has plans for prosperity, for a very bright future—a promise to Jerusalem.

It is a promise we should claim ownership of. It’s a promise to Jerusalem, to Japan, to the U.S.A.

It is love from God to humanity.

But what went wrong? What has become of the promise? In Kenya, people turned against one another.

In Afghanistan...°what went wrong?

In Iraq? A promise to Jerusalem is a promise to Iraq. Harmony and prosperity, that was promised.

In 1998 there was a bomb blast in Nairobi. Can such a bomb be the prosperity that was promised? What went wrong?

In 2001...the collapse of the towers in New York. How many perished?

Joseph cited 1 Corinthians 3:18-20. ¹⁸Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that

you may become wise. ¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” ²⁰and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile” (NRSV).

Joseph told of meeting a Friend in New Zealand who told him that he didn’t think he would ever allow anyone to influence his thoughts about God. Joseph suggested gently that perhaps this was someone whose mind was superior to everyone else’s.

Joseph observed that it’s “tough” to bring the Gospel. He referred back to John Muhanji’s message on Friday morning and reminded Friends that generosity without reciprocity results in arrogance.

We are living in fear. We are living in doubt, not trusting our neighbor. Where there is fear, there is no love. Where there is no love, there is no peace.

Can hope and a future be a reality? This Triennial thinks about hope and a future. Can there be a reality when we live in fear?

What went wrong? What went wrong with the promise to you and me? What went wrong?

In the silence, keep asking yourself, what went wrong.

Friends continued in silence.

Morning Business Session

The Presiding Clerk opened the session with worship using, “Most leaders lead with vision” and the message from John 3:16: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.”

08-P-17 Minute to Friends United Meeting General Board

“We, the Peace and Social Concerns committee of Allen’s Neck, Smith Neck, and Westport, in response to the spring visit of Sylvia Graves, extend an invitation to the members of Friends United Meeting to visit coastal Southern Massachusetts in the Fall of 2008.

“You could visit the oldest continuous Meeting, East Sandwich on Cape Cod. We can arrange a visit to Boston, where Mary Dyer was hanged for her faith. We would welcome Friends, providing housing and tour guides. Our only goal is to get to know Friends better and create bonds of Christian love, trust and understanding.”

08-P-18 Kaimosi Hospital Task Group — Norman Connell

Norman briefly gave the history of FUM and EAYM connections to the hospital. The Appendix has the complete text of the report. The report indicated more work to be done on: a) MOUII, the agreement on a new revised Memorandum of Understanding with East Africa Yearly

Meeting has not been reached, and b) there is incomplete financial information and accounts payable reports have not been submitted.

The Task Force will continue negotiations on a new agreement and will report at the October General Board Meeting.

The report was approved. *The complete report is in Appendix E.*

08-P-19 Ministry in Belize

After hearing the report from Mike & Kay Cain on the work they have been doing, and exploring the possibilities for further work in a PowerPoint presentation, questions were raised about continuing the work in Belize. Do we continue the work? Do we expand the work to include establishing a local Friends church?

Several Friends expressed hearty approval for continuing and expanding FUM's work in Belize. The Clerk received the session's approval.

08-P-20 Cuba Work Team

Linda Garrison (Iowa YM) reported that Cuba Yearly Meeting hosted a FUM work team for two weeks in February 2008. Holguin, Cuba will again be the destination in January-February 2009 as Cuba Yearly Meeting completes the erection of a three-story building on the Holguin Monthly Meeting property. FUM eagerly anticipates the day a Cuban Friend can easily travel to share of God's work on the island.

08-P-21 Africa Ministries report — John Muhanji

John thanked those who have supported the ministry. He spoke of his work in the relief efforts following the election turmoil. He spoke of the farming operations of Lugari Yearly meeting. The land is idle now, and persons need to come forward who can give guidance in the use of this land. *The complete report is in Appendix F.*

08-P-22 Treasurer's Report — John Norris

John Norris reported that the financial picture of FUM has improved. The reduction of staff and closing of the bookstore are a few of the ways the indebtedness has been eliminated. The 2007-2008 fiscal year ended in the black. The 2007-2008 audit has yet to be completed.

The report was approved.

08-P-23 Restricted Asking Budget — Terri Johns

The Restricted Asking Budget of \$1,115,869.44 was presented. This provides support for our Field Staff. The request was approved.

08-P-24 Annual Fund Campaign — Kim Newlin

Kim reported that the silent auction was a success: Nativity set, \$600; desk set, \$250; coasters, \$100; cutting boards \$225 each; vase, \$1,500; quilt, \$900.

The staff used a PowerPoint presentation to show the theme “FEET: Friends Energizing and Equipping Together.” All Friends are invited to participate in this 2009 FUM General Fund campaign.

The report was approved.

08-P-25 Invitation for 2011 Triennial Sessions — Lois Hackney

Along with a brief history of Wilmington Yearly Meeting, an invitation was presented by Lois Hackney, Presiding Clerk of WiYM, to host the 2011 Triennial Sessions of FUM. The invitation was approved. *The complete text is in Appendix G.*

08-P-26 Triennial Nominating Committee — Wayne Carter presented the following report:

After meeting numerous times for sharing, prayer and seeking the Lord’s guidance, your Triennial Nominating Committee makes the following recommendations.

1. The Reading Clerk has not been called into service for the last several sessions, so we suggest consideration be given to deleting this office. If needed, a Reading Clerk could be appointed at the beginning of the sessions.

2. For Trustees of Friends United Meeting:

For a first full six-year term after completing unexpired terms: Steve Ross of NY Yearly Meeting and Clifford Winslow of NC Yearly Meeting; For a second six-year term: Norman Connell of Western Yearly Meeting and Richard Liversidge of Baltimore Yearly Meeting; To fill the unexpired term of James Cradler: Michael Fulp of NC Yearly Meeting.

3. For Treasurer of Friends United Meeting: a second term for John Norris of Ind. Yearly Meeting

4. For Recording Clerk/North America: Carol Holmes of NY Yearly Meeting; for Recording Clerk/East Africa: James Mugalavai of EAYM North

5. For Presiding Clerk and Assistant Presiding Clerk of Friends United Meeting: The Triennial Nominating Committee has been unable to recommend a Presiding Clerk, but have Friends giving it consideration and needing time for clearness.

We are holding off recommending an Assistant Presiding Clerk until we have a Presiding Clerk, desiring to balance these gifts in ministry.

Therefore,

a. The Triennial Nominating Committee is willing to continue to serve until the Fall 2008 General Board Meeting if these Sessions approve, expecting to have a recommendation at that time for both positions.

b. We recommend that Gary Farlow, the current Assistant Presiding Clerk, be appointed Interim Presiding Clerk to serve until and to convene the Fall 2008 meeting of the General Board.

The Triennial Nominating Committee makes the following additional recommendations:

1. We recommend that the General Board consider changing the designations of Recording Clerk and Assistant Recording Clerk to Recording Clerk/NA and Recording Clerk/EA.
2. In order to further our commitment to Global Partnership, we recommend the General Board research the implications of whether it is possible for FUM to legally appoint a non US citizen as Trustee.
3. We recommend that arrangements be made for the Triennial Nominating Committee to begin work prior to the next Triennial Sessions.

The report was approved as presented.

08-P-27 Appointment of Administrative Staff

The General Board presented a recommendation that Sylvia Graves be retained as General Secretary of Friends United Meeting for the next Triennium.

The recommendation was met with enthusiastic approval.

08-P-28 Message Committee

Minga Claggett-Borne presented the following 2008 Triennial Message that was approved:

To Friends Everywhere:

In the beautiful garden-like setting of High Point Friends Meeting in North Carolina, about 500 Friends from 33 yearly meetings and Quaker bodies met for the July 9 to 13, 2008 Friends United Meeting (FUM) Triennial. We were blessed to have attenders from every member Yearly Meeting in North America as well as representatives from the Caribbean, Ramallah, Britain, Burundi and nine Yearly Meetings in East Africa. We felt especially thankful for the strong Kenyan presence although immigration policies restricted some Kenyans and presented Cuban Friends from attending.

“A Hope and a Future” (Jeremiah 29:11) set the theme for our gathering. General Secretary, Sylvia Graves, opened the sessions by sharing her observations on the “State of the Society.” The hope she has for the future of FUM was visibly illustrated by hundreds of bright balloons given to Friends. One-by-one the balloons symbolizing hope were tied to boxes to lift up our varied ministries.

Landrum Bolling, President Emeritus of Earlham College presented the Betty Carter Peace Lecture. He powerfully reminded us that the peace testimony arising out of the teachings of Jesus Christ is not the sole possession of Quakers. The full meetinghouse was enthralled as we heard story after story of peacemakers who witnessed, often at great personal cost. “*The important thing is not to give up hope*” was the closing message.

John Punshon presented the Johnson Lecture and likewise had a message of hope. He gleaned new hopes in the quality of pastors in FUM, seeing Quaker history from the lens of holiness, and the rich faith of Friends in East Africa and Latin America.

“Global Partnerships” is an identified priority that calls for a new mindset - a paradigm shift from patronizing to mutuality. Where once North American Friends viewed their role to be one of “giving to” those around the world, the new perspective recognizes that the role is changing to one of world-wide “partnering with” Friends. North American Friends are now often blessed by ministry from international Friends. Arising out of this commitment to global partnerships, Chwele Yearly Meeting in Kenya was received into full membership in FUM at this gathering.

Morning devotional speakers Tom Hamm, John Muhanji, and Joseph Mamai helped set the tone for each day with thoughtful messages. Many Friends also found daily worship-sharing groups to be a source of spiritual enrichment and workshops on a variety of topics provided valuable information and prompted lively discussion.

In recent years Friends United Meeting has struggled with issues such as religious authority, sexuality and identity. In spite of this an encouraging tone permeated the gathering. A renewed commitment to operate in a fiscally responsible manner has nearly eliminated our past debt. During the past Triennium, FUM has been forced to significantly scale back its central office staff, and has had to choose carefully how to best use limited resources. The disparity in the level of financial support provided by member yearly meetings was identified. We were challenged by John Muhanji to contribute to FUM’s mission with radical generosity.

The mission of FUM is critical for the future of those we serve around the world. The heartfelt testimonies of volunteers and field staff kindled hope among us as the gathered meeting sensed God speaking through their words and their lives.

We look forward to the 2011 Triennial which is to be hosted by Wilmington Yearly Meeting.

We find guidance in the words of George Fox: *“Have the Lord in your Eye, in all your undertakings...Let your Lives be as the Gospel...so that you may answer the Light and the Truth in all People. Do not strive about outward things: but the Love of God will unite you together...seek one another’s Welfare, and be helpful one to another.”* — from 1676 to Friends traveling to New Jersey.

Grace and Peace,
Friends gathered in the 2008 sessions of Friends United Meeting
Brent McKinney, Presiding Clerk
Kay Record Carter, Recording Clerk
Sylvia Graves, General Secretary

08-P-29 Welcome of Chwele Yearly Meeting

The Presiding Clerk welcomed Chwele Yearly Meeting into full membership in Friends United Meeting. Joseph Makokha, Presiding Clerk of Chwele Yearly Meeting expressed appreciation on behalf of the Yearly Meeting. A plaque of recognition was presented by Brent McKinney and accepted by Joseph Makokha on behalf of Chwele Yearly Meeting.

08-P-30 Minutes of Appreciation

Thanks were again expressed to North Carolina Yearly Meeting for their gracious caring for the many details of hosting these Triennial Sessions.

Appreciation was expressed to Brent McKinney for serving as Presiding Clerk these past six years. A framed photo of a Kenyan giraffe was presented to him by Sylvia Graves.

Sylvia Graves expressed thanks for the support her husband, Dale, has given to her. Sylvia also thanked Brent for his service and work with her.

Brent McKinney introduced the former FUM Presiding Clerks who were present: Binford Farlow, Clifford Winslow, Sarah Wilson and Wayne Carter.

08-P-31 Memorial Hour

Linda Selleck played the harp and sang, “His Eye Is On The Sparrow” in memory of deceased Friends. Names of deceased Friends presented are available upon request from FUM—(765) 962-7573.

08-P-32 Closing Minute — Brent McKinney

“Our Almighty God has answered our prayers and richly blessed the Friends United Meeting 2008 Triennial Sessions. As Friends return to their home communities, may the joys of peace, fellowship, good works, hope and prosperous future be shared with many Friends. And may the Grace of the Lord be over us all until we meet again.”

Brent McKinney, Presiding Clerk
Kay Record Carter, Recording Clerk
Carol Holmes, Assistant Recording Clerk

Appendices

Appendix A: Greeting and Epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting



Yearly Meeting of
the Religious Society
of Friends in Britain

Letter of Greeting for Friends United Meeting 9-13 July 2008

We send loving greetings to you, dear Friends, as you gather for Friends United Meeting at Guilford College. We pray that you will once again be guided by the living spirit of Christ.

Britain Yearly Meeting in May this year was enriched by the participation of children and young people. Their particular contributions to the session entitled "Being the Seeds of Change" tied in with the challenge which we were given that "The vision of a sustainable society is deeply linked to the whole of Quaker testimony. We and the world need to be transformed". We are pleased to know that your young adult Friends form such an integral part of your own Yearly Meeting and your children experience such a joyful, interesting programme. Like you, we find that their presence brings both joy to our meetings and hope for the future.

Running through the Britain Yearly Meeting weekend was the theme of deepening our spiritual life. We have recognised the diverse ways in which we understand the source of our Inward Light, but know that our unity as Quakers comes from a shared experience of the divine, however we describe it.

Another theme was that of practising discernment as the basis for our action in the world. An example of this was the country-wide exercise to establish the priorities for the Yearly Meeting's work over the coming years. The results confirmed that Friends recognise that our work is rooted in the spiritual life of our meetings and that our witness in the world follows from that – among the important areas of work, we have identified working for peace and for a sustainable future on the earth.

We are sure that Friends at this year's Yearly Meeting will continue to grow in the spirit, in peace, and as a loving community. We look forward to hearing of your time together through your Epistle.

Signed on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting



Susan Seymour
Clerk to Meeting for Sufferings

Recording Clerk's Office, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ
Telephone 020 7663 1000 Fax 020 7663 1006
Internet www.quaker.org.uk Email enquiries@quaker.org.uk

A religious charity exempted from registration under SI 1996 No 180 and SI 2007 No 2655



Yearly Meeting of
the Religious Society
of Friends in Britain

Epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting held at Friends House, London, 23-26 May 2008

To all Friends everywhere:

Greetings, dear Friends, from Britain Yearly Meeting, where up to 800 Quakers, diverse in many ways, gathered at Friends House London. Of these over a hundred children and young people enriched our community. Friends House came alive as a place of meeting and greeting, renewing existing friendships and making new ones. As we opened our hearts one to another in the truth of God, we experienced the personal warmth of friendship and passed around infectious smiles that the children gave us. It was good to laugh, to sing, and to join in stretching exercises, yet there have also been times of struggle.

A major theme running through the weekend was that of deepening our spiritual life and discernment as the basis of our action in the world. We have our individual understandings of the source of our Inward Light, but acceptance of our diversity is at the heart of our unity as Quakers. Our spiritual practice enables us to share an experience of the numinous whatever language we may use. Our calling is to foster the divine in all we meet, to say 'yes' in a world that frequently says 'no'.

Our community has considered what it can mean to be 'the seeds of change'. We recognise a transforming spiritual power in our worship, whether it acts like dynamite or like the force that enables the seed to push slowly, patiently, sometimes overcoming enormous resistance, towards light and growth. When we plant seeds, we know they need nourishment and protection. But seeds also need to break open before they can grow.

This year we are beginning to reap the benefits of recent changes in our structures. Our trustee body has expressed increasing confidence in its role, while members of Meeting for Sufferings are conscious of a growing sense of community. We have faced up to some ambivalence towards the concept of power, so often associated with domination, but have been led to a Quaker vision of power as the energy the spirit gives us to bring about transformation. We affirm our trustees in their exercise of the responsibility which we have freely given them, knowing they are using this power with integrity, clarity and accountability. There is no 'them' and 'us.'

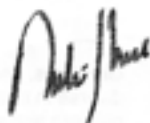
Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ
Telephone 020 7663 1000 Fax 020 7663 1001
Internet www.quaker.org.uk Email enquiries@quaker.org.uk

Religious charity exempted from registration under S. 1966 No 100 and S. 2007 No 2655

All our Meetings have been able to take part in creating a Long Term Framework to prioritise the Yearly Meeting's work. New ways of working from the grassroots are exciting and we welcome the shift to networks of local groups supported by the centre. In order to be an effective prophetic community we all need one another. Perfection is not required of us; but that we walk cheerfully in the right direction, seeking to live sustainably on our earth.

We leave, seeking to practise the discernment that allows the Inward Light to transform us. May we live in God's will as if it were our own. We send you this epistle with our love and hold you in our prayers as we trust you are holding us in yours.

Signed in and on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Ward', written in a cursive style.

Martin Ward, Clerk

Appendix B: Report to the 2008 Triennial Sessions of Friends United Meeting on the actions and activities of the General Board over the triennium 2005-2008

Personnel:

There have been several changes in central office personnel and personnel responsibilities over the last Triennium. Ones in which the GB or its Executive Committee were involved are as follows:

Sylvia Graves has succeeded Retha McCutcheon as General Secretary;

Barbara Smith has taken over the financial duties executed by Paul Smith;

Terri Johns and Sylvia Graves have taken over the missions management duties formerly executed by Colin South;

Katie Terrell and Shari Veach have taken over the *Quaker Life* and Friends United Press management duties of Barbara Mays and Patricia Edwards-Konic;

Kim Newlin and Sylvia Graves have taken over the fund raising duties of Kathy Sawyer.

Finances:

Significant losses were anticipated as result of a decline in large gifts to FUM during the 1st year of the Triennium. The GB authorized reduced staff time to allow for solvency that year. Paul Smith and Norman Connell prepared financial planning documents which Paul Smith then implemented. The result is that FUM central offices are now operating on cash flow without incurring debt.

The General Board committed significant portions of the Trust Funds as surety against management responsibilities assumed for Kaimosi Friends Hospital. The details of this commitment will be reported in the Wider Ministries Report and Kaimosi Hospital Task Force Report.

Bookstore:

As part of the adjustment of financial operation of the central offices the General Board authorized conversion of the bookstore to a purely on-line and phone-order operation. The items for sale now are Friends United Press and other Quaker publications. A very attractive and useful print catalog as well as on line catalog is available. The online bookstore is at www.fum.org, click on the label that says Friends United Press. Phone orders are received at 1-800-537-8839.

Conversion of the Friends United Press operation to just-in-time printing has allowed the offerings of the bookstore to include many formerly out-of-print Quaker classics and all of Howard Thurman's books.

Strategic Plan:

Your FUM clerk arranged for a consultant to lead the GB through a strategic planning process. This process resulted in a planning document with measurable goals and timetables for actions needed to be executed by the staff, GB or its committees. It provides for budget planning, evaluation of the central offices and missions projects and for orderly consideration of FUM's Quaker identity. It includes a regular review that calls the GB and its committees to account for commitments contained therein. It is anticipated that this plan, which projects 5 years into the future, will be updated annually.

Still an issue:

The GB continues to wrestle with a disagreement over the FUM hiring policy that is currently dividing us. There has been correspondence with and among various Yearly Meetings, discussion during the strategic planning process concerned with FUM's identity, and a retreat on what it means to be Quaker in the 21st century. It seems not to please God to open a way before us which we can all perceive as right and proper. It has pleased God to teach us how to talk to each other civilly, and to remind us that we are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Formation of support groups.

The GB authorized the formation of support/advocacy groups for each of FUM's sponsored programs. At least one member of each group must be a member of the GB. These groups are to become knowledgeable of their program, to be a resource for the GB on that program and to act as advocate for that program to the GB, and to be a support committee for the staff engaged in that program. As time goes on they may also assist in fund raising. Volunteers should contact Sylvia Graves.

Missions related actions:

The GB adopted an Instrument for regular evaluation of each existing program as well as an instrument for evaluation of proposed new projects.

The GB asked that it be informed of, and have the right of refusal to proceed on, applications to granting agencies such as US-ASHA by FUM staff. Grants have been a lucrative source of funds for big projects for FUM but here has evolved a concern about commitment beyond our ability to guarantee success.

The GB elected not to be a sponsor of an evangelical effort in Russia due to financial constraints.

The GB agreed to assume management of Kaimosi Friends Hospital to keep it from failing. It appointed a task force to regularly revue operations and appointed a Board to oversee management of the Hospital. It also committed \$50,000 toward operation of the hospital for the first year of management. (This is in addition to commitment made at the last Triennial to raise funds to repair the hospital roof.) The status of this commitment is currently in flux and will be reported in more detail in the Wider Ministries Report.



Belize Friends Boys School

4 Allenby Street

P.O. Box 454

Belize City, Belize

Phone 227-0449

friendsboyschool@btl.net

Belize History

On the first Monday of September 1993 Miss Sadie Vernon opened the door to the first students of Friends School. Entering the classroom was a total of 25 young men. In late October 1995 Kay and I arrived in Belize with a desire to start a school for boys. At the time we were unaware that Sadie had already started a school. In January 1997 Florence Perry came to help Sadie with the Girls Continuation School but unknown to her the teacher at the boys school had died during the Christmas break and Sadie asked Florence if she would teach a class of the boys. It was during this time that we began to work with the school and helped Florence organize a board of directors of which I was appointed Chairman. The next year, 1998, Kay and I were encouraged to apply for the position of Field Director by members of a work team as they replaced most of the siding and many of the studs on the second floor apartment which was turned into a second classroom at that time. After much prayer and thought we offered ourselves for consideration to Reatha McCutchen, where much to our surprise we were accepted and in late August we signed our first contract and have served in that position until this time. In 1999 we received our license from the Ministry of Education to operate a post primary school, and it was at this time the name was changed to Belize Friends Boys School.

In June of 1999 we held our first graduation after taking over management of the school. During preparations for graduation it came to my attention that we had a student that deserved a chance to attend high school; it was at this time that we offered our first high school scholarship. This student and two of his classmates graduated from high school four years later the student on scholarship graduated as Salutatorian of his class and his two classmates finished as Valedictorian of their respective classes.

One of these students has now finished three years at the university and one of the others is now studying Environmental Science at the University of Belize.

In between all of this there have been over two hundred other students pass through Belize Friends Boys School a very large number of these have gone on to high school and university and of these several have been able to attend high school because they were provided with scholarships. When we start school this fall we will have as one of our teachers a member of that very first class, he will also finish his Bachelors Degree in Primary Education at the University of the West Indies in Belize City.

After fifteen years of preparing students for high school the natural line of progression would be to move on to the construction of a Friends High School. This is necessary now more than ever as more and more students are being better prepared for high school only to be told that you cannot go because there is no space available for them. To that end we have been able to purchase 3.19 acres of land for a hefty price of \$.50 U.S. on which to build this new school. We are now waiting for the ASHA grant to be prepared and filed with the U.S. Government. It is estimated that this school will cost in the neighborhood of one million dollars U.S. to construct and furnish.

At the present time it costs \$25,000.00 to operate the prep school, and our budget is another \$50,000.00.

As Kay and I have found it's time to retire from this work by the end of this calendar year. We find our account is in arrears and need to raise \$30,000.00 by the end of this year.

We have found the work in Belize to be very rewarding and we will miss the students and the work very much.

We want to thank all of you that have contributed to this work over all these years and hope th you will fine it in your hearts to help us end our time with FUM on a clean slate.

HIS Servants and Yours in Belize
Mike and Kay Cain

Appendix D: List of workshops and descriptions as printed in May/June 2008 issue of *Quaker Life* magazine, pages 12-13

THURSDAY

Clerking

The clerking workshop will be a time of sharing (loaves and fishes). Those new to clerking, as well as seasoned clerks, are invited to bring questions and stories. Katherine Smith of Baltimore Yearly Meeting will facilitate this workshop which includes handouts.

Curriculum

What curriculum is available from Friends United Meeting? What are the latest trends? What resources does your church/meeting use? What would you like to see Friends United Meeting publish in the future? Bring your questions and creativity to this discussion, facilitated by FUM Communications Editor Katie Terrell.

FUM Missions

Are you looking for an overview of the mission work of Friends United Meeting? This is your workshop! You will have opportunities to ask questions and Terri Johns, FUM program manager, will share ways your meeting can get involved.

History of Friends in North Carolina

North Carolina: a place of Quaker gatherings since the 1660s. This workshop will be led by: Tony Lowe, coordinator, NCYM Faith and Practice Study initiative, member and pastor of Fancy Gap Friends Fellowship; Lynwood Winslow, recording clerk, Eastern Quarterly Meeting, member and recording clerk of Up River Meeting; and David Hobson, pastor of Rocky River Friends Meeting.

History of Friends United Meeting

Friends United Meeting has historically been one of the most theologically diverse of Quaker entities, debating its identity almost since its formation. This workshop, led by Tom Hamm of Earlham College and Indiana Yearly Meeting, will try to make sense of that diversity and its implications by looking at the history of FUM, especially the status of the Richmond Declaration of Faith.

Living More Simply — Creating Change

Susan Carlyle, of Quaker Earthcare Witness and Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting, looks at the “how” and “why” of making changes in our lives, including the spiritual aspects of simpler living, the consequences of our actions and purchase decisions and how we make small, meaningful and incremental changes.

Praying for Sexual Abuse Victims

Praying for people whose lives are affected by sexual abuse — having been abused or knowing someone else who has experienced abuse — is much like prayer for any other issue. But there are some important differences. In this workshop, Mary Heathman of Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting explores helps and hindrances and how we can be the best help we can be as we pray for people. Practical application and sample prayers will also be offered.

Youth/Young Adult and Intern Program

Darlene Pittman of North Carolina Yearly Meeting identifies the foundational layers of leadership development that are essential for effective youth and young adult ministries, offering an intentional focus of discovering and creating a culture that fosters a reproductive leadership culture.

SATURDAY

Friends Boys School, Belize

Mike and Kay Cain have served as principals of the Friends Boys School for over a decade. As Mike and Kay are retiring this year, you won't want to miss the opportunity to hear their stories.

FUM Africa Ministries

Eden Grace, field staff for the Africa Ministries Office in Kenya, will bring us current information on the FUM projects in East Africa as well as updates on relief efforts, peace training and crisis counseling.

Natural Church Development

Would you like your church to be healthier? Natural Church Development, a curriculum and process developed by Christian Schwarz, is an exciting way to address church health. To measure the health of any church, there are eight quality characteristics that NCD focuses upon, which Nina Jackson of North Carolina Yearly Meeting will address in this workshop.

Purpose of Attraction

It isn't magic; it isn't chemistry. God has a purpose for the feelings we have for that "special" man or woman. What is God's purpose? What can we understand about the intensity of our attractions? How does that understanding affect the way we live as Christian men and women? In this workshop, Mary Heathman of Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting will discuss her perspective on these questions.

Ramallah Friends Schools, Ramallah

Joyce Ajlouny, director of Friends Schools in Ramallah for the past four years, shares stories of the hope and determination found at the heart of schools in war torn Palestine — a school that, despite the violence, produces exceptional students.

YOUTH

Young Friends Activities

There is a lot of excitement building for the Young Friends Triennial sessions in North Carolina this summer! Youth from all over have the opportunity to connect with other Young Friends, worship and work together. You don't want to miss Pat Byers' (Indiana) talent and passion for worship, and Tim Vestal's (North Carolina) passion and ability to connect with youth. Activities will include: a trip to Quaker Lake Camp, bowling, putt-putt, service projects and so much more! We can't wait to see you in July!

Appendix E: Kaimosi Hospital Task Force Report

Think of the Kaimosi Hospital as being located in eastern Kenya on an 1158 acre plot of land that I will refer to as the Kaimosi compound, with the hospital property being about 28 acres. In earlier years this hospital developed by FUM was a shining star in this part of Kenya. As some point, it was decided to turn the property over to East Africa Yearly Meeting including oversight of the hospital. I don't know the time period, but over a period of years, the hospital began to decline and fall into disrepair. Patient numbers drastically declined and by the early 2000's, Friends from EAYM and FUM began to discuss how this situation could be addressed. In April 2004, EAYM officials invited FUM to take over the oversight of Kaimosi Hospital to see if it could be saved.

In February 2005, Colin South, who held the FUM position of what we now call Global Ministries director, presented a proposal to the FUM General Board to assume oversight of the hospital. At the joint GB meeting that was held in Kenya in March 2005, general agreement was reached but it took until January 2006 for a Memorandum of Understanding to be developed and signed by both bodies, transferring oversight responsibilities.

This document that we call MOU-I was for a two year period, from January 2006 to January 2008. At the end of that period, it was planned that FUM would have had an opportunity to actually understand the situation and have evaluated if we could be effective in making the changes needed to turn the hospital around, and start to return it back to an effective institution, serving the people of that area.

A new hospital board of Governors was appointed by FUM and our African Ministries staff began working with the hospital administration to make changes. Very quickly I think they realized that one of the problems was that the hospital was under-funded, running constant operating deficits and that funds from FUM contributors would be needed. The MOU-I document however had no provision for funding by FUM other than payment of some travel expenses for the new hospital board of governors. While a campaign to raise funds for replacement of the roof was started, that did not address the operational deficits that were occurring.

By early to 2007, it was realized that the hoped for progress was not being accomplished. At the July 2007 GB meeting, the board discussed the various problems being encountered and decided to

appoint a Kaimosi Hospital Task Force. Its members would be the FUM Presiding Clerk, Brent McKinney, General Secretary, Sylvia Graves, FUM Treasurer, John Norris, FUM Financial Manager, Paul Smith, FUM Program Manager, Terri Johns and GB members, Gary Farlow, Rich Liversidge and myself. The general charge given to this Task Force was to act of behalf of the GB board to gather more information and make recommendations on what needed to be done before the MOU-I expired on January 2008.

It soon became apparent that the hospital administrator was a significant part of the problem and his termination was recommended by our AMO staff and our General Secretary took that action. A management team of hospital staff members began acting while a new administrator was sought and have been very effective.

It further became apparent that the board of Governors we had appointed, while talented and respected individuals, were not adequate for the task at hand. And, we clearly were not going to be able to make a measured judgment on whether FUM should make a long term commitment to provide oversight for this hospital as so few of the necessary goals had been accomplished. Our GB agreed that a new Memorandum of Understanding needed to be adopted.

So, at the October 2007 GB meeting, that body approved of proposed language for a revised MOU-II that included more detailed information about the responsibilities of both FUM and EAYM. It also included a minimum commitment of \$50,000 during the first of its proposed two year term. Language for a revised board of governor's constitution was adopted. It was also approved to replace the existing hospital board of governors.

At the GB meeting held last Wednesday, the Kaimosi Task Force reported the following items had been accomplished:

1. The new Board of Governors has been formed and is meeting on a regular basis. Minutes of their meetings are being shared with the Task Force. We are impressed with the deliberations of the board and their efforts to improve the organizational structure, physical condition and medical reputation of the hospital.
2. Considerable work has been completed on the development of a long term strategic plan for the hospital.
3. The Board of Governors has approved a balanced operating budget for the hospital for the 2008-09 fiscal year. While this

budget does include an annual subsidy of about \$50,000 from FUM/Richmond, the development of a balanced operating budget is a substantial fiscal improvement.

4. A new hospital administrator has been hired. John O. Mulama is expected to join the staff in mid July. He has an impressive background as an administrator of a private hospital near Nairobi and in Human Resources in several industries.
5. Roof Repairs-All of the earlier funds collected for roof repairs at Kaimosi Hospital (\$52,213) have been spent which has greatly improved the physical appearance and functionality of a portion of the hospital. Substantial additional funding is needed (Approx. \$70,000) to bring additional parts of the hospital building back to usable condition.
6. Recent reports indicate that that the above achievements plus a significant improvement in employee morale, and greater outreach efforts have resulted in a substantial increase in both out-patients and in-patients. This success means that continuing the renovations of the main building is a critical need.
7. Incomplete Items
 - (a) MOU-II - Agreement on a new revised Memorandum of Understanding with East Africa Yearly Meeting has not been reached. During Brent McKinney and Sylvia Graves's trip to Kenya in April they met with EAYM officials and were given the understanding that the agreement would be accepted, signed and sent back to us by mid May. That has not occurred and last week we learned that substantial changes to the MOU-II document are being proposed by EAYM officials. The Task Force will continue to pursue this matter.
 - (b) Financial Information - While the Task Force continues to receive regular Income & Expense statements from the hospital, we have been unable to acquire balance sheets and accounts payable reports, nor have we received any of the requested audits for prior years. It is our understanding that the auditors are now back at work.

FUM finds itself in an awkward position. The agreements that we want signed to document our oversight of the hospital remain unsigned yet FUM's involvement with the hospital continues and substantial

improvement has been achieved. Much of this is due to the oversight by our AMO staff, John Muhanji and Eden Grace in Kenya but also due to the regular financial subsidies being sent to the hospital. Currently our goal is to send monthly, \$2,000 for the Adopt-A-Nurse program, \$2,500 for other hospital expenses, and \$1,000 to reduce the past-due employee salaries (appx. \$12,000) that occurred during 2006 and early 2007.

So, what do I want you to take away today from this report? First I acknowledge this report does not tell you about all of the good work that is being accomplished at Friends Hospital, Kaimosi. Judy Davis spoke yesterday about that much more eloquently than I could. The hospital is a valuable resource, one that benefits many people, some who can pay, but many more that cannot.

We need you to continue your contributions to support the Adopt-A-Nurse program, general support for other hospital expenses, support to buy an ambulance and support to continue the roof and remodeling project.

Please keep our AMO staff in your prayers as they have this added responsibility of working with Friends Hospital, Kaimosi.

I am willing to respond to questions at this point in time.

Appendix F: Africa Ministries Office report

Administration

Develop a usage plan for field sites (A.II.3.c)

Rationale: Under the goal of improving financial stability and responsibility, FUM ought to have short, medium and long-term plans for capital investments at each of its own and its partner sites. This will allow for more orderly planning and fundraising, a more coherent message to our funding partners, and more deliberate and coordinated prioritizing among the many needs.

Progress: Lugulu Hospital is in the process of revising their 5-year plan. Kaimosi Hospital has a new Strategic Plan. Turkana Mission has various written planning and prioritizing documents. I am not aware of anything formal in writing for FTC, Samburu or Lindi School. Our newest project partner, Friends Church Peace Team, does not have any physical plant. Overall, our office could be doing more to encourage Strategic Planning at every project.

Equip and train Board members (A.III.2)

Rationale: Under the goal of improving the effectiveness of the FUM Board, it is important to train and equip Board members with a clear sense of their duties and the resources to carry them out.

Progress: The African Board continues to mature with each annual meeting, and the Presiding Clerk has offered quite a few training experiences in various aspects of leadership. Leadership training is also a core priority of the AMO programme. Now that the North American Board has approved a list of the duties of a Board member, a corresponding document should be prepared in Africa. Personal bio-data, as mentioned in strategy 2b, is being maintained by the Africa Ministries Office.

Note for further work: the scope of authority of each segment of the General Board continues to be confusing, and we notice a temptation to sloppy thinking, e.g. referring to the North Americans as if they are the “real” Board, with final authority, and that the Africans are a sub-committee of the Board, with no decision making powers.

Establish an African Nominating Committee (A.III.9.d)

Rationale: Under the goal of “establishing a Global Board”, the intention is to identify Africans with particular gifts and interests, for service on FUM Committees.

Progress: The General Board meeting in April 2008 established standing committees of the General Board and named appropriate members. This represents very significant progress in this aspect of the Strategic Plan. We note that, in the African context, service on FUM

Board and committees is a consequence of the YM leadership positions held by individuals, and that we are not drawing on “lay” members of the YMs for these committees.

Determine the needs of African Yearly Meetings (A.IV.2)

Rationale: Under the goal of defining the relationship between FUM and its member YMs, there is a felt need to better understand what the African members want and need from FUM.

Progress: This question was the main task of the AMO in its first year of existence, and is well defined in the minds of the African YMs, the African General Board members and the AMO staff. It may be that there is still some confusion among the North Americans about these matters. The AMO will need some direction on how best to address this knowledge gap.

Communications

Identify African writers for Quaker Life (C.2.h)

Rationale: There seems to be two intentions here – to provide content which would be of interest to African readers, and to better expose our North American readers to African voices and experiences. Both of these are worthy goals.

Progress: Our North American volunteer sent in several articles during her stay here, and we are in the talking stage about doing her some more of this in the future. Dave Zarembka and John Muhanji have also sent in articles suitable for printing. We have plans to request more articles from resident and visiting Friends. We will continue to be alert for items of interest and send them in. Our participation in the Quaker Youth Book Project provides another opportunity to lift up African voices in written form.

Develop YM training about FUM (C.3.c)

Rationale: This objective seeks to encourage mutual understanding and accurate information among FUM’s members. This is a core function of FUM in general, and of the AMO in particular.

Progress: This priority is central to the allocation of staff time in the AMO. We routinely present seminars on leadership skills, board organization, responsibilities of officers, etc and include how the YMs and project partners relate to FUM. It is not clear what would constitute “completion” of this task in the Strategic Plan.

Establish an African Communications Committee (C.6.a-d)

Rationale: Under the objective of informing and equipping Friends, it is felt that the communications programme of FUM would benefit from an African committee.

Progress: Distributing “Quaker Life” in Africa and creating a quarterly AMO Newsletter have been high on our list of priorities since we opened the Kisumu office in 2005. There is clearly a need as well as a desire for more written communication from FUM to its African member yearly meetings. The obstacle has been the cost of printing and distribution. Until this is addressed, it may not be productive to appoint a committee, only to have its work frustrated.

Evangelism

Conduct workshop on African Evangelism and Internship Program at the Triennial (E.1.c)

Rationale: This task falls under the objective of “develop North American Ministries Office.” It is not entirely clear to us the relationship between this strategy and its stated objective, nor do we understand the reference to “internship programme”. However, perhaps the intention is simply to bring AMO perspectives on evangelism to the Triennial. Progress: John Muhanji is speaking at the Triennial and Eden Grace is giving a workshop on the work of AMO.

Conduct annual visits to isolated Friends in Africa (E.2.b)

Rationale: Under the objective to “bring the message of Christ to the world through outreach”, this is a very important part of the work of all Friends. Isolated and suffering groups of Friends are always in need of encouragement through intervisitation, and this is a worthy part of the ongoing programme of the AMO.

Progress: During the past months AMO has visited isolated groups of Friends in Tanzania and Congo and has continued to encourage and support Uganda YM. Friends in Turkana could also be considered “isolated”. It is important that we have undertaken most of this outreach in cooperation with FWCC Africa Section leadership. There is much more that could be done to visit and encourage Friends groups throughout Africa, as well as to send pastors for short or long term service, if funds and staff time allowed us to expand this aspect of our work.

Hold Emerging Leaders Conferences annually in North America and Africa (E.3.a)

Rationale: In North America, these conferences have been very successful in lifting up gifts among youth and encouraging them to mature in Christian faith. Perhaps it was felt that the same would also be helpful in Africa.

Progress: In the African context we currently work together with the youth programs at the YM level and with YQCA to support and encourage their youth conferences. It is not clear to us that we need

to hold additional youth conferences. Our role is rather to support and provide leadership when requested.

Conduct Workshops at youth conferences (E.3.c)

Rationale: Continuing the discussion from the item above, this strategy seems more directly related to the way we currently work with youth programmes in Africa, and feels more relevant.

Progress: We have fallen behind in our goal of visiting every YM youth or women's conference once per year. Our staff time is too constrained. However, we continue to accept nearly every invitation to speak or lead a session at conferences, and feel that this is an important part of our ministry, and a key element in what makes FUM valuable to the YMs.

Develop leadership training/teaching materials (E.4.b)

Rationale: The Yearly Meetings want FUM to assist them in training leaders. This strategy focuses on written material as a way to address that need.

Progress: we have not had the time, the personnel, or the monies in our budget to create written materials. However, we devote a large part of our time to leadership training exercises in the YMs and project partners.

Translate materials into Swahili (E.5.b)

Rationale: It is rightly felt that, in order to be relevant in the various cultures in which FUM works, we need to develop a multi-lingual, multi-cultural mentality. Swahili is most Kenyan's second language, while English is their third, so making materials available in Swahili would be a useful service.

Progress: We have made it our first priority to translate the "East African Faith and Practice" and publish a side-by-side bilingual edition. The first draft of the translation has been completed, and there are funds available for publication. We are hoping to involve the FTC community in the process of perfecting the translation, since it raises very subtle questions of theological meaning (particularly in regards the translation of the Richmond Declaration). We hope to complete this publication in 2009. Once this is done, we will need to consult with the member YMs about which document or text would be the next priority for translation.

Publish materials for Sunday School, etc (E.5.c)

Rationale: same as E.5.b

Progress: The National Sunday School Committee is responsible for publishing curriculum materials. We are holding funds on their behalf, but have not, up till now, been closely aware of their progress. We will

be having a meeting with the leaders of the National Sunday School Committee on July 1st.

Establish on-line communication between Young Friends (E.6.c)

Rationale: Under the objective of “supporting the development of Friends communities”, this strategy tries to address the need for more cross-cultural networking and community-building among Friends.

Progress: We appreciate and understand the value of “online social networking” in the North American context but have to be cautious about its potential for success in the African context at this time since very few Friends here, youth and adults, have frequent or affordable access to the internet. Nevertheless, the momentum of the World Gathering of Young Friends and of the Quaker Youth Book Project may show us that some African youth are able to benefit from participation in virtual communities. It is not clear what the AMO’s role in this area should be.

Define FUM’s philosophy of mission (E.7.a-c)

Rationale: As part of the objective to “develop a strategic plan regarding the philosophy of FUM’s missions”, there is a desire to articulate clearly the distinctive marks of Quaker missions.

Progress: This could be a worthy and exciting process, but nothing has been done on it, to date. To undertake it with meaningful participation from the African membership will require significant resources. It is not quite clear how a “philosophy of missions” statement would then translate into a “strategic plan” for carrying out our mission work.

Identity

FTC strengthen Quaker history curriculum (I.2.g)

Ben and Jody Richmond, Acting Principals at FTC, will address this in their report. Although this task was given to John Muhanji, in fact AMO has no role in the development of FTC’s curriculum.

Teach Quaker F&P and history (I.2.h)

Rationale: There is a felt need to deepen our understanding of our own tradition. This need is just as strongly felt in Africa as in North America.

Progress: All the AMO staff, and many visiting Friends, frequently speak on subjects of Quaker identity, history, practice and distinctives. This is a core function of the AMO and not a task that will be “completed” at some point. The emergence of the Friends Church Peace Team represents a significant reappropriation of the Peace Testimony among Kenyan Friends.

Committee to discern our theology (I.3.b)

Rationale: This task seeks to continue the discussions which began among the Identity Group in the Strategic Planning process. The recommendation is to convene a parallel group in Africa.

Progress: Nothing has been done to convene this group or to better define its work. However, we feel that a theological working group could indeed be a very fruitful exercise.

Appendix G: Invitation to 2011 Triennial by Lois Hackney

At the end of the Revolutionary War, the new United States Congress met in Philadelphia and had many important decisions to make. One was, “How do we treat this new territory that lies north and west of the Ohio River?” After much discussion and debate, it was decided that in the Northwest Territory there would be no slavery. Many Quakers, acting on their belief that, “There is that of God in every person,” felt it wrong to own slaves and so packed up their wagons to head north and west. The lure of good farmland was not a deterrent in their choice to emigrate.

Many of these early Pioneer Quakers settled in southwest Ohio. Originally they were part of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, then Indiana Yearly Meeting and established Wilmington Yearly Meeting in 1892. They started monthly meetings, schools, developed towns and participated in government. A college was started in 1875, several years before the establishment of the yearly meeting. Wilmington College is now home to the Peace Resource Center which houses the historic Barbara Reynolds Collection on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as doing much education on peace and ways to accomplish it. The Peace Center sponsors the annual Westheimer Peace Symposium, made possible by the generous endowment of a former trustee (who was not a Quaker). Another non-Quaker trustee left a gift to the college that was to be used to construct and maintain a Quaker Heritage Center. Today, the Miriam Hare Quaker Heritage Center serves as a museum, as well as a gathering place for Quaker thought and discussion.

During the 1800s, the Quakers in southwest Ohio and eastern Tennessee became very active in the Underground Railroad. Many Quaker homes and farms were safe houses along the path to freedom in Canada. Isaac and Sarah Harvey of Springfield Monthly Meeting visited President Lincoln and it is said that they were instrumental in getting him to issue the Emancipation Proclamation.

This week we have basked in the hospitality of North Carolina Yearly Meeting and for this we offer our gratitude. You have been here to meet all of our needs. A “weighty Friend” from Western Yearly Meeting made the statement, “Quaker gatherings are family reunions.” As we look ahead to the next FUM family reunion, it is with pleasure that Friends in east Tennessee and southwest Ohio invite you to our part of the world for the 2011 Friends United Meeting Triennial Sessions. Come visit, explore some of our rich history and witness the living Christ at work in our lives as we strive to be his heart, hands and feet here on earth. Come fellowship with your brothers and sisters from around the world and get to know your family members better.

