

Baltimore Yearly Meeting
Spring Interim Meeting 25 Third Month 2006
Baltimore, Stony Run, Friends Meeting

I2006-08 Opening The Spring Interim Meeting of Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) met at Baltimore, Stony Run Friends Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland, on the 25th Third Month, 2006. Approximately 100 people from 31 meetings joined us at some time during the day. We gathered in waiting worship after committee meetings and a bountiful lunch. Lauri Perman, (State College), Presiding Clerk of BYM, was invited by the Interim Meeting Clerk, Michael Cronin (Friends Meeting of Washington – FMW) to join us at the table.

I2006-09 Remembering Tom Fox After a period of silence, Lauri reminded us that this is the first time we have gathered as a Yearly Meeting community since our dear Friend Tom Fox was kidnapped and since we learned of his death. She read the following statement by the Reverend Carol Rose and Doug Pritchard of Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT):

....our faith compels us to love our enemies even when they have committed acts which caused great hardship to our friends and sorrow to their families. In the spirit of the prophetic nonviolence that motivated Jim, Norman, Harmeet and Tom to go to Iraq, we refuse to yield to a spirit of vengeance. We give thanks for the compassionate God who granted our friends courage and who sustained their spirits over the past months. We pray for strength and courage for ourselves so that, together, we can continue the nonviolent struggle for justice and peace.

Throughout these difficult months, we have been heartened by messages of concern for our four colleagues from all over the world. We have been especially moved by the gracious outpouring of support from Muslim brothers and sisters in the Middle East, Europe, and North America. That support continues to come to us day after day. We pray that Christians throughout the world will, in the same spirit, call for justice and for respect for the human rights of the thousands of Iraqis who are being detained illegally by the U.S. and British forces occupying Iraq.

During these past months, we have tasted of the pain that has been the daily bread of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis. Why have our loved ones been taken? Where are they being held? Under what conditions? How are they? Will they be released? When?

With Tom's death, we felt the grief of losing a beloved friend. Today, we rejoice in the release of our friends Harmeet, Jim and Norman. We continue to pray for a swift and joyful homecoming for the many Iraqis and internationals who long to be reunited with their families. We renew our commitment to work for an end to the war and the occupation of Iraq as a way to continue the witness of Tom Fox. We trust in God's compassionate love to show us the way.

Living through the many emotions of this day, we remain committed to the words of Jim Loney, who wrote:

"With God's abiding kindness, we will love even our enemies.

With the love of Christ, we will resist all evil.

With God's unending faithfulness, we will work to build the beloved community."

Lauri reminded us that this was not a memorial meeting, but an opportunity to share from our hearts. After several messages, Lauri continued with her report, beginning with information about the plans for Tom Fox's Memorial Meeting.

Tom still has a five-person support team. Three members are members of Langley Hill Friends Meeting: Ann Bauer, who has maintained contact between the family and the support team; Doug Smith, clerk of Langley Hill Friends Meeting; and Paul Slattery. Two other members of the team are Mennonites: Hoyt Maulden and Pearl Hoover, who is pastor of Northern Virginia Mennonite Church. Throughout the last four months I have worked carefully with this support team.

This support team is making the initial arrangements for Tom's memorial meeting. The family and a few CPT members had a private service at Dover, Delaware. The support team is working carefully with the family to plan another memorial meeting, mindful of the intense interest of the press.

At the request of the support team, when information about the memorial meeting becomes available, the Yearly Meeting office will be sending a letter – not an e-mail – to monthly meeting clerks. Friends should let their monthly meeting clerk know that they would like to be informed about the memorial meeting. We do not know yet when that letter will be sent, but it will not arrive before the middle of the next week at the earliest. Members of the support team need to make plans on their own schedule.

Role of Yearly Meeting Lauri continued:

The first thing I want to share is that this situation of the last four months has clarified for me the role of the Yearly Meeting and particularly our relationship to monthly meetings. We really are a grassroots, bottom-up organization. Although at times Friends look to the Yearly Meeting for leadership, leadings to take action come to individuals, and clearness for action takes place at the monthly meeting level and sometimes in the committees of Yearly Meeting. I see the role of the Yearly Meeting to support monthly meetings. Consequently, my actions throughout the past four months have been guided by the wishes of Tom's support team and Langley Hill Friends.

Recently Friends have begun to offer suggestions as to how the Yearly Meeting might create a living memorial to Tom. I am passing those suggestions to Doug Smith, Clerk of Langley Hill, and a member of the support team. I do not think it is appropriate for the Yearly Meeting to begin to think about memorials until Langley Hill has had a chance to make its own decisions. We would not want to find ourselves in competition with Langley Hill raising funds for two different memorials. The leadership will come from Langley Hill.

Prayers - The pressures on the meetings and the support team have been intense, and I have only seen them secondhand. I urge you to keep everyone involved in your prayers. Tom's family came to Friends at Alexandria Meeting. Tom has recently been living on the property of Hopewell Centre meeting so there are three meetings with very intense personal concerns, Alexandria, Hopewell Centre, and Langley Hill Friends where his membership was located. These Friends need your prayers. I would like to especially single out Anne Bacon, who is the immediate past clerk of Hopewell Centre, and who has

continued with this concern, and Doug Smith. These two, as monthly meeting clerks, were frequently were called to meet the press, along with Marge Epstein of Langley Hill who has coordinated their press efforts.

Opportunities - Anne and Doug will be offering a Yearly Meeting workshop sharing what they have learned about working with the press. The Yearly Meeting Program Committee has invited Tom's support team to plan our Friday night plenary session. In our planning stages our hope was that Tom would be here among us to share in that plenary.

Request for Assistance – I committed to write condolences letters to Tom's family and feel a need to acknowledge the letters of condolence that the Yearly Meeting has received. I feel led to ask for a volunteer to assist me. If that is something you feel led to do, either to help me to write the condolence letters or to acknowledge the condolence letters, please talk to me. We are posting the condolence letters we receive on the website. The vast majority are going directly to Langley Hill and are posted on the Langley Hill website. I want to thank Jim Rose, the Yearly Meeting webmaster, for his terrific work keeping the website up-to-date. We have been keeping him much busier than usual. I would like to draw your attention to some moving condolence letters we have received, that are on the Yearly Meeting website under condolences, especially the letter from New York Yearly Meeting, which felt led to write to us out of their own experience of the letters they received after 9/11. They shared how much that had comforted them and they knew we would be in need of comfort. I would like to draw your attention to the letter from Jean Zaru, who we are so happy to have with us and from whom we will hear in a few minutes.

I2006-10: Continuing the Presiding Clerk's Report

Gratitudes – The rest of my report is all gratitudes. First I want to share with you my gratitude for the very well –attended Called Meeting on February 25th when Friends approved with changes a position summary for the new General Secretary. The position is currently posted on the BYM website. The Ad Hoc Search Committee will begin reviewing applications on April 7, 2006 and will continue until the position is filled. We have one application in hand.

I would like to read the names of the Ad Hoc Search Committee and to share gratitude for their willingness to be of service to the Yearly Meeting in this important way and to ask you to hold them in your prayers and in the Light in the coming months as they do this important work: They are in fact meeting right now in another room:

Katherine Smith, (Maury River), Clerk
Ramona Buck (Patapsco)
Nancy Clark (Baltimore, Homewood)
Janet Eaby (Nottingham)
Andrei Israel (FMW)
Katrina Mason (Bethesda)
Eric Uberseder (Dunnings Creek)
Francy Williams (Frederick)

I want to share my gratitude with all of you, and I hope you will share your gratitude with him, for Howard Fullerton (Sandy Spring). In the absence of a permanent General Secretary, Howard has been doing an absolutely marvelous and committed job as Interim General Secretary. Some of you know that we asked Howard to work about 20 hours a week, saying you do not have to visit monthly meetings; Ministry and Pastoral Care will take care of that. It is true that Howard's ordinary schedule is Tuesday, half of Wednesday and all of Thursday. However I would estimate that Howard is giving us 40 hours a week, week in and week out including nights and weekends. He is working really hard and we are so happy and so blessed to have him in this role.

Challenges - The changes underway in the Yearly Meeting have been challenging and difficult. I will say I never thought I would have to clerk the Yearly Meeting without Frank Massey's help. It was not what I signed up for, but the challenges provide an opportunity for growth and transformation. Frank Massey said it would not be good for us if he stayed any longer. He had seen what happened to yearly meetings when superintendents stayed 25 years or longer. One of the opportunities for each one of us is to really strengthen the role of our committees. When we have a long term staff member, it is easy to let the staff member help us out. It is time to reread the description of our committees in the Manual of Procedure and to make sure we are really doing what the committee is called to do. The Manual of Procedure says that committee clerks for the coming year should be reported while Yearly Meeting is session. I am going to let you know now, several months in advance, that there will be a roll call; there might even be a meeting of new committee clerks at Annual Session. It is not too soon to start identifying your clerk.

Like most changes, there has been pain and discomfort, but I am confident that we have been given important opportunities for growth and transformation, both individually and corporately. And I believe that at these times of difficulty and transition, we are most called to live our faith, listen for the Spirit, and wait to be guided.

I remain thankful for this opportunity to be of service to the Yearly Meeting. I am blessed to be able to be in this role.

I2006-11 Appreciation Michael Cronin, Clerk, added his appreciation to all of those in Baltimore, Stony Run Meeting, both in the kitchen and around the meetinghouse, for great food and breakfast beforehand. We appreciate their hospitality.

I2006-12 Peace and Social Concerns Committee J.E. McNeil (FMW), co-clerk of the committee, presented two minutes.

THE PROPOSED MINUTE FOR THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM PEACE TAX FUND BILL:

Over thirty years ago on eighth day of Eighth Month 1972 at Annual Sessions, upon the founding of the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund, Baltimore Yearly Meeting endorsed its passage:

The historic testimony of the Religious Society of Friends against participation in war has led many individual Friends over the years to refuse the payment of taxes used in whole or in part for war-related purposes. . . . Friends have continued to seek guidance in the matter of payment or non-payment of individual and corporate federal taxes.

Therefore, Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends will take the following actions:

- 1) provide, under the oversight of the Yearly Meeting Peace Committee, resource materials and resource persons to aid Monthly Meetings and individual Friends in reaching decisions in the matter of non-payment of federal taxes; and
- 2) endorse legislation which would provide for the right of conscientious objection to federal income taxes used for military-related purposes.

We affirm our support of efforts through lawful means to create a society that does not rely on war or the threat of war as an instrument of national policy.

Today we are once again embroiled in war. The call to peace is stronger than ever. Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) renews its commitment to support those individuals who are called to refuse to pay their federal taxes and endorse this Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill, and prays that it will not be another 30 years before it becomes the law of the land.

The Minute for the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill was APPROVED by the meeting and will be sent to the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund, appropriate United States Senators and Representatives, and all monthly meetings of BYM.

I2006-13 We then turned to a proposed minute patterned on that of Langley Hill, which is a small beginning of carrying on Tom Fox's legacy, following Langley Hill's lead. A delegation from that meeting has started visiting with its U.S. congressional members. Langley Hill is calling on Friends everywhere in this country to do likewise.

**PROPOSED MINUTE TO HONOR AND CONTINUE TOM FOX'S WORK ON
IRAQI DETAINEES
FOR BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING, 25 THIRD MONTH, 2006**

“Blessed are the PEACEMAKERS: for they shall be called the children of God.”

Tom Fox, truly a child of God, has left us to try to carry on his work in this world. An important part of his work for peace was trying to help

families in Iraq know the location and condition of their loved ones who were being held in detention by U.S. forces. This simple basic human right has been systematically denied to those in the care of our government. Tens of thousands of Iraqi families suffer as a result.

When Tom was taken hostage last November, we all came to know in a personal way what it was like to have a beloved friend or family member detained, and not know where they were being held, or their fate. Tom's death has not changed this.

We of the Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) are deeply saddened by the loss of our Friend and are resolved to try to change U.S. policy and practice by asking Friends Meetings in the Yearly Meeting and across the country to send delegations to visit U.S. Senators and Representatives to:

- a) ask them to work to have coalition forces in Iraq make the names and locations of those it has detained available on a timely basis;
- b) ask them to insure that the International Committee of the Red Cross is able to visit all detainees in accordance with international treaties.

We ask meetings who take on this witness to report back to Baltimore Yearly Meeting by the time of Annual Session in Eighth Month, 2006.

We APPROVED this minute as amended and added several names to the list of recipients: all Monthly Meetings in Baltimore Yearly Meeting, all Yearly Meetings in the United States, Christian Peacemaker Teams, all Quaker journals in the United States, American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Friends General Conference, Friends United Meeting, Friends World Committee on Consultation - Section of the Americas, Friends World Committee – all world offices, Wider Quaker Fellowship, and Evangelical Friends International.

A Langley Hill Friend added that the Langley Hill minute had been sent to 800 monthly meetings by regular mail recently.

I2006-14 Jean Zaru John Salzberg (Bethesda) thanked those who saw the video *Investment in Hope*, the story of the Friends International Centre in Ramallah, the ministry developed in partnership with the Ramallah Monthly Meeting. He announced that copies of the video are available for monthly meetings, if people will contact him. (See the BYM Yearbook directory.) He then introduced Jean Zaru, Clerk of the Ramallah Monthly Meeting, who inspired Philadelphia and Baltimore Yearly Meetings to help rebuild the meetinghouse and to establish the Friends International Centre of Ramallah which offers hospitality to Palestinians, Israelis, and others seeking peace with justice. There is a plaque in the

meetinghouse thanking us for the support and for being with them in these difficult times. “We are building community”, she said. “We are networking with likeminded people.” She added her condolences on the death of Tom Fox, but exhorted us that his death was more about life; that he unites people to work on peace and justice. No matter our size and number, together we can make a difference. She also admonished us that trying to be balanced, we sometimes miss opportunities to act. We are not working against anyone; we are working against structures of repression and destruction. She reminded us there are three members of BYM on the steering committee of the Center: Lamar Matthew, (Baltimore, Stony Run), John Salzberg (Bethesda), and China Jessup (Bethesda).

I2006-15 Nominating Dorothea Malsbary, (Sandy Spring) clerk, mentioned that the Nominating Committee is working hard to strengthen our Yearly Meeting committees. She introduced the members present (Barbara Thomas, Annapolis; Bronna Zlochiver, Sandy Spring; Jason Eaby, Nottingham; and Ramona Buck, Patapsco, who was at the time of Dorothea’s report attending the Ad Hoc Search Committee meeting. Other members are Cynthia Power, Charlottesville, and Catherine Tunis, Herndon). They have been in contact, by letter and individually, with monthly meeting and nominating committee clerks, seeking names of individuals for whom Yearly Meeting service would be an opportunity, a challenge and a gift. New BYM committee clerks have also been contacted; if eager and interested people, not yet appointed to the committee, attend meetings, Nominating would be glad to consider them for appointment. The Committee is interested in individuals active at the local meeting level, for whom getting involved in the Yearly Meeting would be a new opportunity to broaden their exposure to Quaker service.

I2006-16 350th Anniversary Evamaria (Ria) Hawkins (Bethesda) reminded us of the 350th anniversary of the arrival of Quakers in North America. 1652 is generally said to be the beginning of Quakerism in England. In 1654 it was carried to Ireland. In 1656, according to Kenneth Carroll, Elizabeth Harris landed in the Chesapeake Bay area, starting Quaker communities in Severn, West River, South River, Broad Neck, and Kent Island.^{1[1]} **This anniversary is cause for celebration by all American and Canadian Friends, but especially for by us in Baltimore Yearly Meeting. It is also a great opportunity for outreach, for letting people know that we are still alive and well, and where their local meeting is.** Annapolis Monthly Meeting has taken a lead in celebrating and is working on the following ideas:

- A banner to be put up outside the Meetinghouse announcing the anniversary
- Bumper stickers
- Brochures for distribution at the visitor center and historic sites

^{1[1]} Carroll, Kenneth, *Quaker History*, Vol. 94, No. 1, “Americas First Recorded Quaker Communities”

- A float in the July 4th parade
- A lecture in a local college, probably a part of a series on Religious Freedom or the history of religion in Maryland
- Joining a local historical society's summer program of places of historical interest
- Having a visiting Friend portray George Fox (even though he was not part of this very early history here)
- A group of meeting needlewomen/quilters will make a quilt or wall hanging to commemorate this event
- 2 applications for grants to help with expenses have been submitted, one to a local historically oriented fund and one to a Quaker fund.

The objective is to become aware of our early history, to have fun, to involve as many people in the meeting as possible in one or other aspects of this celebration and to make the community around us much more aware of our presence.

What can Your Meeting do?

I2006-17 The minutes were approved as corrected.

I2006-18 Search Committee Report Howard Fullerton (Sandy Spring), Interim General Secretary, presented the report for the Search Committee in the absence of David Hines (Richmond), clerk. The other members are Katrina Mason (Bethesda), Margaret Stambaugh (Gettysburg) and Helena Cobban (Charlottesville). The Search Committee requested approval to replace Elaine Bell (Sandy Spring) on the Supervisory Committee with Margaret Stambaugh, effective immediately. They also requested Joan Clippinger (Warrington) be added to Nominating Committee, again effective immediately. Search Committee reminded Interim Meeting that at Spring Yearly Meeting Day a Naming Committee is often formed to find people for Search Committee, which currently needs three new members. Howard presented the names of Susie Fetter (Roanoke) and Miriam Green (Baltimore, Homewood).

The two appointments and the Naming Committee were APPROVED.

I2006-19 Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee Don Gann, (Baltimore, Stony Run), Clerk, introduced Linda Heacock (Richmond) who has been traveling as an Embraced Friend. Linda had a leading to work with Friends Peace Teams African Great Lakes Initiative (AGLI) in Kenya. She followed the guidelines for Embraced Friends and received a travel minute from her Monthly Meeting, endorsed by the Ministry & Pastoral Care Committee and by the Yearly Meeting.

Linda Heacock spoke of her ministry and the activities over the past year in Western Kenya and Nairobi facilitating Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshops. Forty Friends Church members, community officials, police, teachers and youth were trained. (See the full report below and the article in the Spring *Interchange*, available on the BYM-RSF website.) Linda hopes to continue this

work in Kenya and within BYM, where she is available for presentations and local training. She added that the experience of this ministry has changed her life. She is indebted to the Yearly Meeting and would appreciate our continuing support. If funds can be raised, she hopes to return to Kenya in September 2006.

Betsy Wollaston (Deer Creek) informed us that Parker Bennett was also working with AGLI last summer, helping build a school, teaching English, and learning about Burundi. David Zarembka (Bethesda) coordinates AGLI.

Linda Heacock's report was ACCEPTED.

I2006-20 Staff Reports - Youth Secretary Hope Braveheart reminded us 1) that Tom Fox had a deep connection with the Young Friends community, having spent seven years as a Friendly Adult Presence (FAP), and served as Interim Youth Secretary before she came. Our Young Friends are grieving. Their entire next newsletter will be devoted with love to Tom and to his legacy. It will be sent to all Young Friends, every monthly meeting, and all monthly meeting Religious Education committees. We need each other at this time.

2) She also reported on the Young Friends in Ramallah Program this summer from July 10-24. Five BYM Young Friends will visit and do a workcamp with 5 Palestinian youth. There are concerns about the safety of the trip, but we were reassured that the first week of the trip overlaps with Max Carter's group of Guilford College students. If they feel it necessary to cancel, we will as well. Jean Zaru is also confident about the safety of the trip. The five BYM participants are Bennett Murray (Goose Creek), John Stitzer (State College), Katie Bellile (Richmond), Mica (Rosie) Whitney (Richmond) and Tory Smith (Langley Hill). The advisory group for this trip consists of experienced Friends who have visited Israel and Palestine: Lamar Matthew (Baltimore, Stony Run), coordinator and also member of the steering committee of the Friends International Centre in Ramallah, Max Carter (Guilford College, North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM)), Maia Carter Hallward (FMW), Andrei Israel (FMW), Phoebe Stern (Sandy Spring), and Salem Zaru, Jean Zaru's son who lives here in Mt. Airy, Maryland. Also Joyce Ajlouny, Director of Ramallah Friends School and John Hishmeh, Guidance Counselor of Ramallah Friends School, are our (Lamar and I) contacts – their goal and ours is for the Young Friends in Ramallah Program to continue either annually or bi-annually. They will let us know if it is or is not safe. If our trip is postponed we will continue with planning for when we will be able to go..

3) Hope's third point was the Friendly Adult Presences. A first orientation, held in January, trained a larger group, but more are needed. The next orientation will be at Annual Session, during 2 workshop periods. It will prepare people to work with Junior Young Friends and Young Friends. If you are interested, please contact her at the Yearly Meeting office.

I2006-21 Staff Reports – Interim General Secretary Howard Fullerton too has traveled to Palestine and Israel, as a former member of the Friends United

Meeting (FUM) board. A group spent 17 days there in December, almost before he had settled into his new work as Interim General Secretary.

Howard addressed the safety issues, assuring us that his group were informed about points such as what to wear, where not to go, and how not to travel (on city buses), before they went and also by World Vision after their arrival. He felt safe even walking alone at night between the two Friends School locations in Ramallah.

Now he is settling in, working mostly on finances, with the Program Committee, and with staff. Part of the work with finances has been the result of Frank Massey's tax resistance. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) sent a bill for two years of taxes, interest and penalties. J.E. McNeill, as BYM attorney, replied with a letter and checks for several quarters for taxes and interest, but not penalties. We are awaiting the IRS response.

The Clerk of Trustees requested that they receive copies of all correspondence relating to the IRS. [Underscoring shows material Howard Fullerton added to this written report.] Howard also announced we are looking for a new bookkeeper, as Linda Ricci was limited both in her time available and in accounting training. Information is available through all monthly meeting clerks and newsletters.

He hopes to place a banner on the BYM website announcing the 350th Anniversary and encouraging area-wide celebrations.

Our BYM membership continues to grow: we have a net gain of 58 members, with at least 6 more to come; the median size of a monthly meeting is 64. There are other meetings that have not filed membership reports, information on Clerks and committee clerks, or financial information needed to support an equitable apportionment process. The office would like all that information; it helps us serve you better. Information about non-compliant meetings is available from Sandra Michaels in the office.

I2006-22 Manual of Procedure : Ann Marie Moriarty (Adelphi), Clerk of the Committee presented requested changes.

The first change reflects the actual practice of Trustees, not the Stewardship and Finance Committee, receiving audits. It was pointed out that an audit is required at least every three years or whenever the Treasurer or the General Secretary changes.

The second was a new description of the Unity with Nature Committee, initiated at their request.

The third clarifies the categories of Working and Special Groups. (See the report below.) In answer to a question, Ann Marie explained that the groups may

request annual budget monies, but can not raise or accept other funds without prior approval of the Interim Meeting and in coordination with the Stewardship and Finance Committee. The sponsoring committee need not be the original founding committee.

With the one improvement, these changes were APPROVED.

I2006-23 Ethel Reynolds Fund A new proposal for the distribution of the Ethel Reynolds Fund was also presented. (See **I2005-9 and I2005-47.**) The goal of not frittering the funds away has been met with wild success; the original bequest of \$62,000 (1976) was \$83,000 at the end of 2003. The Ethel Reynolds Fund Co-clerks, Doug Eaby and James Matsen (Nottingham), have allotted \$8500 for dispersal this year. Unlike Ethel Reynolds' bequests to Nottingham Monthly Meeting, the Yearly Meeting was not required to hold the bequest intact. The Manual of Procedure Committee recommends that the Yearly Meeting lay down the Ethel Reynolds Fund Committee, and that the remainder of the funds be allocated this year among the Camping Program, Camp Property Management, Youth Programs, Religious Education and Advancement & Outreach Committees, asking them to develop a plan in coordination with Stewardship and Finance to spend the funds wisely over a period of time. Monthly meetings can apply directly to the appropriate committee for monies. The use of the funds should be included in annual reports to the Yearly Meeting from the five groups. (See the full report below for details.)

The Meeting APPROVED the proposal as presented, and MINUTED :

For three decades the Yearly Meeting has benefited from Ethel Reynolds's generous bequest in many ways and the above proposal will let it continue to do so. As she intended, the Yearly Meeting has benefited and will continue to benefit from her bequest. As we reflect on all that her gift has accomplished, Baltimore Yearly Meeting minutes its gratitude to Ethel Reynolds for her bequest.

Lauri Perman has learned from those at Nottingham who knew Ethel Reynolds that she cared deeply about the future of the Religious Society of Friends. It was her belief that the future of the Society depended on youth, religious education and outreach.

I2006-24 Program Committee Liz Hofmeister (Bethesda), Clerk, reported that Annapolis Monthly Meeting will host an interest group on the 350th Anniversary and what meetings can do to celebrate the presence of Quakers today in the Mid-Atlantic region. We are encouraged not to wait until August to celebrate the 350th Anniversary!

She also reported on the outcome of the recent visit by some members of the Program Committee to the James Madison University conference coordinator

recently. There will be no changes in 2006. In 2007, the University requires that we change our dates to July 23-29th. There may be some changes in the meeting spaces used by the Yearly Meeting as well. We will be in the same dormitories and eat in the same cafeteria, sharing it with another group.

She asked permission of the Interim Meeting to begin to look for other possible sites in case we find we have to move. Permission was GRANTED.

Liz shared the theme for Annual Session this year, “Living in Harmony: Called to Live in Harmony with One Another and All Creation”. Tuesday night’s plenary speaker will be our Young Adult Friend Rachel Stacy (Gunpowder), who was involved with both the English and the Kenyan World Gatherings of Young Friends last year. She is very experienced working with Friends of all persuasions. Saturday the Carey Memorial Lecturer will be Marshall Massey (Iowa Yearly Meeting-Conservative), a co-founder of Quaker Earthcare Witness. He will be encouraging all Friends to walk gently on the Earth. A Friend alerted us to Marshall Massey’s leading to walk to Harrisburg, Virginia, from his home in Omaha, Nebraska. On Friday we have asked Tom Fox’s Support Committee and Langley Hill to be responsible for the program, in some way carrying forth Tom’s work. Watch for the May *Interchange* for details.

Three vouchers per meeting will be available again for two free nights for first time attenders.

Worship Sharing - Don Gann requested volunteers to lead worship sharing. Riley Robinson (FMW) described his group: they get down on the floor and color. (There will be two family worship sharing groups this year.) Worship sharing is an opportunity to start the day with a small group with whom you will touch base all week, a quiet time full of worshipfulness but with the expectation that all may share on written queries developed around the Annual Session theme. It was suggested it would be a good idea to have a worship sharing leader training session at Annual Session for those interested.

I2006-25 Unity with Nature Committee Sarah Brabson (Little Britain, Eastland), co-clerk, presented a request for affiliation of the Friends Wilderness Center (FWC) with Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Sarah Brabson is a member of the FWC board and their Recording Clerk, Julie Guroff, has joined the Unity with Nature Committee. FWC is not requesting financial assistance from BYM as an organization, but seeks to become better known and better used by the Yearly Meeting. An Open House will be held at Friends Wilderness Center on May 20. More information is available on their website: www.friendswilderness.org or from Friends Wilderness Center, 305 Friends Way, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425; Phone: 304-728-4820’ Email: center@friendswilderness.org. The Center, which has been under the care of Friends Meeting of Washington, was donated by Henry and Mary Cushing Niles, who were members of Baltimore, Stony Run.

The intent today is to give Friends a chance to familiarize themselves with the proposal, which needs to be approved at Annual Session. (See the full report below.)

I2006-26 Minutes The minutes to this point were read and approved with corrections.

I2006-27 Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas Flossie Fullerton (Sandy Spring) reported on the meeting in Guatemala recently, pointing out that all six BYM representatives (Flossie Fullerton, Sheila Bach (Langley Hill), Robert (Bob) Fetter (Roanoke), Graham Johnson (Sandy Spring), Dona Manoukian (Langley Hill), and Sage Taylor (Sandy Spring)) were present. The meeting was hosted by two Guatemala Friends Church groups. For the first time all 17 worship groups were bilingual, with interpreters. Another Friend mentioned that five or six Central American Young (Adult) Friends were present, among the 15 attendees at least from the World Gathering of Young Friends (WGYF).

Flossie raised the question about BYM interests to share with the Triennial to be held in Dublin, Ireland, in 2007. The topics the representatives considered included peace, opposition to the use of torture, and environmental concerns such as water and pollution. It was pointed out that because of an earlier deadline, some answers were sent by the Presiding Clerk in December. Lauri Perman will forward a copy of the answer to our representatives.

Bob Fetter then reported on upcoming opportunities. The Southeast Region, to which we belong, hosts regional meetings, the next being in North Carolina September 22-24, 2006. In January 2008 there will possibly be a regional meeting in Jamaica YM (FUM). BYM may host the regional meeting after that. These meetings are open and all who are interested are welcome to attend.

He also mentioned the Quaker Conference on Torture, June 2-4, 2006 at Guilford College, Greensboro, North Carolina. Co-sponsored by FWCC, Section of the Americas and by BYM among others, it is organized by The Quaker Initiative to End Torture (QUIT). The website is www.quit-torture-now.org The Conference requests representatives from each yearly meeting, as well as welcoming all individuals who share the concern.

This summer there is also a Quaker Youth Pilgrimage, a group of international youth age 16-18, who will together visit Friends through the Midwestern United States, July 14-August 10. This is a wonderful opportunity. Four places are still available for United States Friends. Dona Manoukian (Langley Hill) encouraged those present to return to our meetings and talk to any Young Friends who might be interested. The application is available at <http://www.fwccamericas.org/whatwedo/youth.html> .

Finally, Flossie offered us the opportunity to help her with a quilt square, similar to those on our BYM modesty skirt, for the New England Section's project. How does Quakerism express itself within BYM? The completed square is due by the end of May. It was suggested that since we are so involved with our youth that the camp logo "Fire at the Center" might be appropriate. The group agreed enthusiastically.

I2006-28 Intervisitation Committee Ken Stockbridge presented the Intervisitation Committee report for Marcy Seitel, Clerk, who sent her regrets. (The complete report is inserted below.) A web page is being developed to make our materials available to our monthly meetings and to other yearly meetings. BYM's program is primarily organized to send and receive visits to YM Annual Sessions. Monthly Meetings are encouraged to take individual initiative and invite other FUM monthly meetings to visit, for example Charlottesville's invitation to New Garden Quarter in North Carolina YM (FUM).

A Friend asked how those who are already traveling among Friends can help BYM's intervisitation goal. The Committee does have training sessions which are open not only to those with minutes to travel, but also to those traveling for other purposes. Two sessions were held in July and October, 2005. Materials used will be on the website as well. The BYM intervisitation program is focused on building relationships between FUM Yearly Meetings, as well as encouraging visiting in general.

Ted Heck, (Richmond), co-clerk of the Youth Programs Committee (YPC), mentioned that since there will be no YouthQuake this year, the YPC decided to use the money budgeted to cooperate with the Intervisitation Committee's work. Ken happily accepted that movement on behalf of the Committee. Involving Young Friends and youth in intervisitation is one of the Committee's aims. A FAP, a YF and a YF's friend are attending the NCYM (FUM) mid-winter youth gathering this weekend. Most of the YMs have youth programs.

Ken was thanked for the report.

I2006-29 Ad hoc Committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity Concerns: Aron Teel (Charlottesville), Clerk, pointed out that the Committee has received no response from Monthly Meetings regarding the Friends General Conference Central Committee's 2005 minute on the gifts and leadership of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and queer Friends within FGC. This minute was brought before Interim Meeting this time last year. The Committee is asking that committee members attend Quarterly and Monthly Meeting's meetings for business to present the FGC CC minute and to listen to their experiences. The Clerk of Interim Meeting was APPROVED to send a cover letter to let Monthly Meetings know that the committee members will be knocking on their doors. (The FGC Central Committee Minute is appended below.)

I2006-30 Ministry & Pastoral Care Committee : Ed Norton (York) announced that Ministry and Pastoral Care also is charged with visiting within the Yearly Meeting. He requested that interested individuals contact him if they would like to visit other Monthly Meetings within BYM in love and friendship. An article will be found in the next *Interchange*. It was also pointed out that Monthly Meetings can invite members of M&PC to visit them.

I2006-31 Closing : The final minutes were read, corrected, and approved.

The meeting closed in a moment of silent worship at 6:20 p.m., to meet again at Hopewell Centre Meetinghouse on 17 Sixth Month, 2006, or as called.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Bradley,

Interim Meeting Recording Clerk

BYM Embraced Ministry with Friends Peace Teams
Report of Ministry Activities/Plans
March 25, 2006

Activities/Accomplishments

- April 2, 2005, Interim Meeting : Friends approved embracing Linda Heacock's Ministry, using protocol set forth by BYM "*Guidelines on Embracing the Ministry of Friends*"
- April-May, 2005 : Formation of Working Support Committee
- June-Sept, 2005: Raised \$4500 for 6-week Kenya trip (travel, living expenses + \$2000 for cost of workshops)
- 8/14/05 : "Friendly Forum" presentation at rise of Meeting (Richmond Friends)
- 9/19/05 – 10/31/05: Trip to Kenya with *Friends Peace Teams' African Great Lakes Initiative*.
 - Delivered five, 22-hour *Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP)* workshops with team of Kenyan AVP facilitators, Western Kenya and Nairobi.
 - Number of participants: 40 (Friends Church members, community officials, police, teachers and youth)
 - Number completing AVP facilitator certification: 20
- 12/20/05: "Friendly Forum" presentation at rise of Richmond Meeting
- BYM Women's Retreat, 1/20-22/06 –Workshop, "*Following a Spiritual Leading through Quaker Ministry*". Participants: 10
- Kenya journal excerpt published in winter edition of *Peaceways*, AGLI quarterly publication.
- Wrote article for BYM *Interchange*, submitted for March issue
- 2/12/06: Submitted proposal to deliver workshop at 2006 BYM Annual Session
- 2/25/06: Submitted proposed article to *Quaker Life* magazine.
- Wrote article for March issue of Richmond Friends Meeting *Among Friends* newsletter: History of Friends and Friends' Peacemaking in Kenya.
- February-March: Sent out letter to (10) Monthly Meetings of BYM with proposals for presentations on work of ministry

- 3/1/06: Met with Adria Scharf, director, *Richmond Peace Education Center (RPEC)*. Discuss plans for re-implementing and coordinating AVP program at the Virginia Correctional Center for Women.
- Sent letters to past AVP facilitators with RPEC informing of intent to re-introduce AVP and plans for organizational meeting.

Future Plans/Activities:

- Plan for return to Kenya in Sept/Oct 2006.
Correspondence with Kenyan contacts:
 1. (7) facilitators certified at our AVP training, Lugari, Western Kenya (Oct, 2005) have apprenticed as co-facilitators for (2) AVP basics, with AVP Advanced training to follow. (Internal funding resources)
 2. (2) Basic workshops held in other locations stretching remainder of funds I had raised, plus internal funding through Friends' churches.
 3. Tentative plans for return trip: T4T for Nairobi youth, AVP workshop series (3 levels) and Trauma Healing workshop in areas of past violence/ethnic cleansing (Western Kenya)

Funds raised to date: \$2000

- March: Formation of Ministry Oversight Committee (3 confirmed members)
- May 26-29: AVP National Conference, Boston – scheduled to present either workshop, or as part of panel on AVP program and Friends Peace Teams' African Great Lakes Initiative.
- Request from *Richmond Peace Education Center* to write 2-part article for June and July issue of newsletter under *Profiles in Peacemaking Series*. (1. History of AVP and how it comes out of the Quaker perspective; 2. How AVP is working in Kenya and my connection to that work.)
- 4/10/06: Friends House/Sandy Spring – evening presentation
- 4/23/06: Williamsburg Friends Meeting – presentation at rise of Meeting
- Implement fund-raising strategies: Send out letters to Monthly Meetings, Richmond Friends, friends/family, updating on ministry activities/progress/plans, and appeal for support. Include updated brochure.
- Phone call/email follow-up to letters sent to MMs re: visitations.

Linda Heacock, Richmond Monthly Meeting
Address: 12465 Ashland Vineyard Land, Ashland, VA 23005
Phone: 804/752-6752; Email: hanamiklin@aol.com

Manual of Procedure Committee Report

For years, the Trustees, not the Stewardship and Finance Committee have received the audit. The change in wording reflects actual practice. Add a sentence to the Trustees description on page 6: (add underlined material; ~~delete material struck through~~)

The Trustees meet at least annually. They are responsible for title to all real property in the care of the yearly Meeting, such as burying grounds, and for all matters concerned with the invested funds of the Yearly Meeting. At least every three years and whenever the Treasurer or the General Secretary changes, it should arrange for a certified public accountant to audit the Treasurer's books and records, and those of any other group or individual having charge of the expenditure of funds. All trust funds will, of course, be administered in accordance with the intentions of the original donors following the policy outlined in *Faith and Practice*, Appendix I,3. The Trustees should report annually to the Yearly Meeting.

Remove the same sentence from the Stewardship and Finance Committee's description on pages 27-28:

The Committee each year prepares for Yearly Meeting consideration a budget and a plan of apportionment of the budget to the Monthly Meetings. ~~At least every three years and whenever the Treasurer changes, it should arrange for a certified public accountant to audit the Treasurer's books and records, and those of any other group or individual having charge of the expenditure of funds.~~ It has oversight of the accounting methods used and the adequacy of the financial reports given by the Treasurer, and it should make adequate provision for preservation of all assets of the Yearly Meeting not specifically managed by the Trustees.

Page 29: Change the description of the Unity with Nature Committee, a request initiated by that Committee.

From:

~~The Committee searches and urges all Friends to search with them for the Light that enables us to discern and answer that of God in all creation.~~

~~It encourages Friends and others to educate themselves and to engage in actions concerning the care and restoration of the natural environment locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.~~

To:

Recognizing that the entire world is an interconnected manifestation of God, the Unity with Nature Committee seeks to work into the beliefs and practices of the Yearly Meeting the twin principles that God's Creation is to be respected, protected, and held in reverence, and that human aspirations for peace and justice depend upon restoring the Earth's ecological integrity. The Committee promotes these principles by example, by communication, and by providing spiritual and material support to those engaged in transforming our relationship with the Earth.

It serves as a resource for Unity with Nature concerns and activities of individuals and of Monthly Meetings.

Working Groups. *See pages 13 to 15 in the Manual of Procedure. Change the last paragraph on page 15 to read:*

Any other groups recognized by the Yearly Meeting which are not standing Committees or ad hoc committees are ~~considered~~ either special groups or working groups and ~~are described in that section.~~ The former report to the Yearly Meeting as provided on page 37. The latter report to a sponsoring committee of the Yearly Meeting as provided on page xx .

The description to be placed on page xx (after the description of Special Groups) follows:

Any standing committee, with the concurrence of Interim Meeting, may establish a **Working Group**. The Working Group need not have members of the sponsoring committee among its members, but reports to and through that Committee. Unless otherwise provided, each Working Group selects its own clerk. Each Working Group is expected to report in writing annually to the Yearly Meeting. Any report, action or statement of a Working Group should be approved in the manner of Friends at a meeting of the Group of which all members of the Group were given reasonable notice. Working Groups are empowered to raise or accept monies only with the prior approval of the Interim Meeting and in coordination with the Stewardship and Finance Committee. The minute establishing the Working Group specifies whether a member of the Working Group or the clerk of the sponsoring committee will authorize disbursements. When the Working Group's activities are complete or it is no longer active, the sponsoring committee or Interim Meeting lays it down.

On page 33, delete the first paragraph, following the section of Special Groups: ~~Any other groups recognized by the Yearly Meeting which are not standing committees or ad hoc committees are considered special groups. Only those groups which have continued or expect to continue for some time are included in the Manual.~~

Concerned individuals desiring to establish a new Special Group bring their idea to Interim Meeting, either themselves directly, or through ~~their~~ a Monthly Meeting(s), or through an a appropriate standing committee of the Yearly Meeting if one already exists. If after due consideration there is general support and approval, Interim Meeting recommends to the Yearly Meeting that such a Special Group be established. If the Yearly Meeting approves, the group is established.

PROPOSAL ABOUT THE ETHEL REYNOLDS FUND

The Ethel Reynolds Fund evolved through decisions made by Representative (now Interim) Meeting to make grants from the bequest of Ethel Reynolds, a

member of Nottingham Meeting who died in 1976. The bequest to Baltimore Yearly Meeting was for religious education and advancement work. The money was placed in a fund (restricted by the Yearly Meeting) and a committee was established that included members of Nottingham Monthly Meeting.

The goal of not frittering the funds away has been met with wild success; the original bequest of \$62,000 was \$83,000 at the end of 2003. Ethel Reynolds asked that we exhaust the bequest and the Yearly Meeting policy (*Faith and Practice, Appendix I*) requires that we spend it fully.

The Manual of Procedure Committee recommends that the Yearly Meeting lay down the Ethel Reynolds Fund Committee and that the funds be allocated this year among four committees and our youth program as follows: 15 percent each for the Camping Program and Camp Property Management Committees, 30 percent for the Youth Programs Committee, and 20 percent each for the Religious Education and Advancement and Outreach Committees.

We recommend that Interim Meeting ask that these committees and program develop a plan in coordination with the Stewardship and Finance Committee to spend these funds wisely; in the case of the Religious Education and Advancement Committees, a five-year time horizon is recommended. The Camp Property Management Committee already has a capital-spending plan and the Youth Programs Committee is looking forward to taking a group to Israel and Palestine this year. Annual reports to the Yearly Meeting from these five groups should indicate how these funds are spent.

For three decades the Yearly Meeting has benefited from Ethel Reynolds's generous bequest in so many ways and the above proposal will let it continue to do so. As she intended, the Yearly Meeting has benefited and will continue to benefit from her bequest. As we reflect on all that her gift has accomplished, Baltimore Yearly Meeting minutes its gratitude to Ethel Reynolds for her bequest.

Unity with Nature Request for Friends Wilderness Center's (FWC) Formal Affiliation with Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM)

As a committee affiliated with FWC since 2003, BYM's Unity with Nature Committee is advocating for the formal affiliation of FWC with BYM: A formal affiliation would be mutually beneficial to FWC and BYM. FWC wants to be a *resource* for BYM and its Monthly Meetings, one that deepens and enriches the spiritual lives of individuals and furthers the spiritual purposes of Meetings. FWC is not asking for any financial support from BYM as an organization, but will of course continue to welcome contributions from Monthly Meetings and individuals who are moved to provide such support.

- **Current status of FWC:** FWC is now, and has long been, a *regional* Quaker organization, rather than a project of a committee in a single Monthly Meeting. Its board (Oversight Committee) has recently drawn from at least eight Monthly Meetings – in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia (Adelphi, Alexandria, Frederick, Friends Meeting of Washington, Goose Creek, Langley Hill, Little Britain and Sandy Spring) – and visitors come from Meetings distributed throughout those four jurisdictions, plus West Virginia.
- At this time, only one of FWC’s ten board members is from Friends Meeting of Washington (FMW), where until recently FWC was under the care of Ministry and Worship Committee. FWC recently received a letter from FMW acknowledging that the Center no longer needs to be under its care and formalizing the change in status.
- **Current informal relationships with/within BYM:** For six years, the BYM *Faith and Practice* revision committee has been meeting monthly in the Niles Cabin, and this will continue for many years. FWC is providing space to BYM, because it is an inspiring setting and because it is the most central location to all the committee members. Ministry and Worship Committee of Langley Hill Friends Meeting has used the Niles Cabin for retreats. Opequon Quaker Camp has frequently used FWC for wilderness outings for the past 3-4 years. Numerous members of BYM Meetings have used the FWC for personal and family retreats.
- **Goal of Extended Reach & Cross Fertilization:** FWC wants to reach more people, more often, and on an ever-deeper level. As an integral part of BYM, FWC would collaborate with other BYM entities in addition to the Unity with Nature Committee, such as the Camping Program Committee, the Youth Programs Committee (e.g. volunteer and retreat opportunities), and the Religious Education Committee (a place for adult retreats; currently no such retreat center exists within the BYM community). FWC would complement BYM’s youth camping programs by enabling adults, young adults, and families to commune with nature. FWC facilitates the seeking of God’s will in the natural world, hearing God’s voice in other living things, and strengthening bonds of community with others in a wilderness setting. Members and visitors are enabled, figuratively, to stand in the hand of God, illuminated by God’s light. All of this combined provides a unique and crucial experience in modern life and in spiritual journeying, within a wilderness treasure that belongs to us all.

Ad Hoc Committee on Intervisitation

Report to Interim Meeting March 2006

In the last few months, more plans for intervisitation have taken place, and we have begun to plan how to let other yearly meetings know about our program better. We have had no official visiting, although there is the hope that today young friends will travel to North Carolina to meet with a midyear gathering of young friends there.

In April, Winston-Salem Meeting plans to visit Charlottesville Meeting, the first visit of another meeting to one in our yearly meeting. This is a return visit that resulted from the visit that Friends from BYM made to Winston-Salem Meeting in October.

In the next week or so, a letter of invitation will go out to the yearly meetings within Friends United Meeting (FUM), inviting Friends to visit the Annual Sessions of our Yearly Meeting in August. We have funds to support some travel to our yearly meeting, and hope to have at least a modest response. We ask that Friends who attend Annual Sessions be aware of visitors, make them feel welcome, and especially get to know them and learn about their life as Friends.

We also encourage members of our yearly meeting to visit other yearly meetings within FUM. Our original vision was that Friends would agree to visit a yearly meeting over the course of three years and build relationships within the yearly meeting. If there are Friends interested in doing this, please contact the Intervisitation Committee. We encourage Friends to travel in pairs or small groups. Funds are available to support the expenses of travel and attending.

There is a growing number of Friends in our yearly meeting who would like to serve as visitors. Other than visiting yearly meetings, there are not other opportunities for visiting at this time. We hope there will be in the future. In the meantime, Friends are invited to come forward with plans for visiting or inviting visitors to their meetings.

The other project underway for us is the development of a web page that more fully describes the aspects of this program, both for people in our yearly meeting and those in other yearly meetings. We want to encourage other yearly meetings to take up this work.

We continue to enjoy lively committee meetings and look forward to seeing where this work will take us next.

Ad Hoc Committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity Concerns

Interim Meeting, on 4th Month 2, 2005, charged the ad hoc committee on Gender and Sexual Diversity Concerns (GSDC) to respond to the Epistle from Friends General Conference (FGC) Central Committee in consultation with Monthly Meetings.

The committee proposed that Interim Meeting forward this Minute to all the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings for consideration and response. Members of the

ad hoc committee will carry the Minute to as many Meetings as possible, inviting Friends to labor with us.

The FGC Central Committee Minute reads:

Our experience has been that spiritual gifts are not distributed with regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. Our experience has been that our Gatherings and Central Committee work have been immeasurably enriched over the years by the full participation and Spirit-guided leadership of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer Friends. We will never go back to silencing those voices or suppressing those gifts. Our experience confirms that we are all equal before God, as God made us, and we feel blessed to be engaged in the work of FGC together.

We invite Friends to consider and share back with us their own experiences. We invite Friends to dwell deep, to “know one another in that which is eternal,” to consider the words of this Minute, and to be open to the presence and guidance of the Spirit.