

BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING

ANNUAL SESSION MINUTES

Third Day Afternoon
30 Seventh Month 2002
3:00 p.m.

Y2002-1 As Friends gathered at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, for the 331st Annual Sessions of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, at the Clerk's table were Lamar Matthew, Clerk (York), Lauri Perman, Reading Clerk (State College), and Ronald Mattson, Recording Clerk (Baltimore, Stony Run). Quietly we moved into a period of worship and expectant waiting.

Lamar Matthew, Clerk (York), shared with the gathering his opening Minute. He noted that we are a people called to be children of the Divine Light, gathered into a fellowship that is constantly being refined by the revelation of Truth. His Minute read.

Welcome, Friends, to the 331st Annual Sessions of Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. It has been 350 years since George Fox climbed Pendle Hill in the north of England and visioned "a great people to be gathered." Little could Fox have imagined the lands his beloved Friends were to travel in or the concerns they were to meet and surmount.

Shortly after Fox's vision, Elizabeth Harris began to gather children unto the Light in the Virginia Colony. These early Friends were joined by shipload after shipload of Children of the Light as they populated the New World from Maine to Barbados. They began to settle meetings in this new land and quickly began to speak their Truth in the power of the Light. In Pennsylvania as early as 1688 Friends were compelled to speak out on the evils of slavery. Here in Virginia at the Hopewell settlement in 1734, Friends were led to speak to the fair treatment of native people. And in 1972 Young Friends gathered for sessions at Westminster, Maryland, asked Friends to consider the equality and inclusion of gay and lesbian people in the entire life of our Society of Friends.

Now at this 331st gathering of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, we, the spiritual descendants of those earlier Children of the Light, we, today's Children of the Light, we, a great people gathered are met to see how Truth prospers among us. What concerns do we bring to be refined by the light of Truth? Can we listen deeply enough so that we can go forward in unity? How will we try our Quaker faith and practice?

Friends, as we meet to worship, let us pray with all our power as we seek to know God's will. All is vain unless we surround ourselves with the spirit of Peace and Love that invites truth into our midst. Be tender one with one another. Oh Lord, keep us in Gospel fellowship as we walk and wait in the Light.

Y2002-2 Visitors were recognized and greeted on behalf of the Yearly Meeting. Present at this session were Katherine Jacobsen, Stillwater Monthly Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting, Conservative, and Michael Wajda, Goshen Monthly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Michael is the Associate Secretary for Development and Interpretation of Friends General Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Y2002-3 Lauri Perman, Reading Clerk (State College), shared excerpts of Valley Monthly Meeting's State of the Meeting report. "But ultimately our spiritual vitality must be nourished by trust in and acceptance of each other, so we all sense in worship and in all our actions the invitation to share the fruits of the spirit as we experience them and are led to name them."

Y2002-4 A letter of greeting, prepared for Laura Nell Obaugh (Hopewell Centre) and Felix Wedgwood-Oppenheimer, her husband, to carry with them as they attended Britain Yearly Meeting, was returned to the Yearly Meeting with an endorsement from Britain Yearly Meeting signed by Peter J. Eccles, Clerk.

Y2002-5 David Hines (Richmond), Clerk of the Program Committee, introduced the members of that Committee. He noted that Ron Stroud (Oxford), Margaret Stambaugh (Gettysburg), and Anne Greene (Baltimore Homewood), have been responsible for the workshops and the interest groups. Laurie Wilner (Langely Hill) is serving as registrar for these sessions. Liz Hofmeister (Bethesda) is working with the session's speakers. Jason Eaby (Oxford) is our sound engineer. Others working on the Program Committee are Geni Elliott (Baltimore, Stony Run), Karen Cunningham (Adelphi), Jessie Vanderhof (Baltimore, Stony Run), Clerk of Young Friends, and Linda Coates (Little Britain-Eastland). Ex officio members are Miriam Green (Baltimore Homewood), Ministry and Counsel Clerk, Lamar Matthew (York), Yearly Meeting Clerk, Michele Levasseur (Takoma Park), Youth Secretary, and Frank Massey (Sandy Spring), Yearly Meeting General Secretary.

Y2002-6 Frank Massey (Sandy Spring), General Secretary, introduced members of the Yearly Meeting staff who were present: Jane Megginson (Frederick), Administrative Assistant, Pam Tyng (Adelphi), Bookkeeper, Michelle Levasseur (Takoma Park), Youth Secretary, Josh Riley (Hopewell Centre), Camp Administrative Secretary, Alicia and Bridget Henzi (Takoma Park), who help with the mailings at the office. Also introduced was David Greene (Baltimore, Homewood), the literary luminary in charge of the bookstore for these sessions.

Y2002-7 Liz Hofmeister (Bethesda), Clerk of the Search Committee, reported on items taken to the Interim Meeting during the year and that are now before this session for final approval.

The reappointment of Lamar Matthew (York) for a third and final two-year term as Yearly Meeting Clerk was approved. The reappointment of Ronald Mattson (Baltimore, Stony Run) for a one year term as Recording Clerk was approved. Kevin Caughlan (Sandy Spring) was approved for a two year term as Treasurer, beginning January 1, 2003.

There was a first reading of the name of Ted Green (Washington) for Assistant Treasurer. Approval of this name will lie over until a later Meeting.

Two names have been approved and forwarded by Interim Meeting for the class of 2004 membership on the Supervisory Committee. Now approved were Gretchen Hall (Alexandria) and Meg Boyd Meyer (Baltimore, Stony Run).

The names of Claudia Wair (Langely Hill), Ramona Buck (Sandy Spring) and Fred Leonard (Baltimore, Stony Run) have been approved by Interim Meeting and are brought forward for membership on the Nominating Committee. All were approved for the Class of 2005. Also brought forward for a first reading were the names of Ruth Flower (Takoma Park) and Beverly Moore, (Valley), for reappointment to the Nominating Committee, class of 2005.

Y2002-8 The minutes were read and approved at this time. The Clerk noted that the visitors to our Yearly Meeting sessions are granted the freedom of the Meeting and are asked to join in our gathered community.

Y2002-9 Excerpts from the Spiritual State of the Meeting report from Goose Creek Monthly Meeting were read by Lauri Perman, Reading Clerk. "As we proceed, we trust in the Spirit to guide us as individuals, as a Meeting, and as a world. Realizing that a life of faith is not always comfortable, we yearn to let our lives speak and to be willing to be 'strangers in the world.'"

Y2002-10 Howard Fullerton (Sandy Spring), reporting for the Structure of Committees Task Group, brought forth four specific recommendations:

- 1) Ministry and Counsel and the Committee for the Nurture and Recognition of Ministry should be combined. APPROVED. The Task Group along with current Committees and Manual of Procedure will draft a committee charge and plan for the transition.
- 2) The Committee on Records should be replaced by an Archivist. APPROVED. It was noted that this could become a part-time staff position.

- 3) The standing Epistle Committee will be replaced with an ad hoc Epistle Committee, nominated annually by the Yearly Meeting Clerk and approved at the Annual Session. APPROVED.
- 4) The Publication Committee should be replaced by an ad hoc *Yearbook* Editing Committee, called together by the General Secretary. APPROVED, contingent upon the current Publication Committee completing their current charge.

Specific procedural language for these changes will follow at a later session next year.

Y2002–11 The Minutes numbers nine and ten were read and approved.

Y2002–12 The Peace and Social Concerns Committee Clerk, Betty Hutchinson (Sandy Spring) brought in two specific proposals that are now laid before us:

- 1) Baltimore Yearly Meeting is asked to minute its support for House of Representatives Concurrent Resolution Number 368 and calls our Congressional members to support this bill. HCR 368 states “that it is the sense of Congress that reinstating the military draft, or any other form of compulsory military service in the US would be detrimental to the long term military interest of the US, violative of individual liberties protected by the Constitution, and inconsistent with the values underlying a free society as expressed in the Declaration of Independence.” This minute by BYM would recognize that we are against the possible reinstatement of compulsory military service.
- 2) Baltimore Yearly Meeting is asked to support the House of Representative’s Resolution regarding the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act—currently HR 1186 - which would allow legally defined conscientious objectors to pay 100% of their [federal] income taxes into a separate fund that will be used only for government spending that is for a non-military purpose.
- 3) A separate minute, not yet considered by the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, asks Baltimore Yearly Meeting to reaffirm our Testimony for Peace.

All three items will come back to these sessions for final action. Betty Hutchinson (Sandy Spring) then highlighted various peace activities that are taking place within our Yearly Meeting, such as weekly vigils and Monthly Meetings’ actions.

Howard Fullerton (Sandy Spring) will provide copies of a minute approved at the recent Friends United Meeting Triennial plenary sessions in Kenya that deals with peace in the Middle East.

Donald Gann (Baltimore, Stony Run) spoke of two minutes approved last week by New York Yearly Meeting that deal with the escalating violence being directed toward Iraq. Copies of the New York minutes will be available tomorrow.

Y2002-13 York Monthly Meeting's State of the Meeting report was read by Lauri Perman (State College), Reading Clerk. York Friends raised the question as to "what is the meaning of Meeting?" "We have grown in many ways this past year and we will continue to grow, even beyond our fears as we stay open to Truth and mind the Light."

Y2002-14 Minutes 12 and 13 were read and approved.

Third Day Evening
30 Seventh Month 2002
7:30 p.m.

Y2002-15 After Friends had settled into a period of worship, Liz Hofmeister (Bethesda) introduced Ron Kraybill, Associate Professor of Conflict Studies at Eastern Mennonite University's Conflict Transformation Program. He opened by saying "when I sat in the silence what I felt was the difficulty of the times we are in and what it means to be a people of peace." He described to Friends how a case study approach to conflict resolution might show the multiplicity of issues that are involved and why we need to realize the importance of long-term commitment. There is also a necessity to deal with human needs in a holistic way.

Fourth Day Morning
31 Seventh Month 2002
9:30 a.m.

Y2002-16 Seated at the table as we began our morning worship were Lamar Matthew (York), Clerk, Sheila Bach (Langely Hill and Sheppardstown Worship Group), Reading Clerk, and Ronald Mattson (Baltimore, Stony Run), Recording Clerk.

From Nottingham Monthly Meeting we heard from their Spiritual State of the Meeting Report:

We are encouraged by efforts towards intergenerational worship and fellowship, and strive to maintain a loving nurture of the vocal ministry offered, with the hope of growing towards a more fully vibrant expression of our spiritual life.

Many Friends worked for months in preparation for a celebration of the three-hundredth anniversary of the Nottingham Lots and the Brick Meeting, which is under our care. . . . The experience of an ancient meeting house filled with visitors gathered in a worshipful meeting offered a rich reward for many months' work and preparation.

Y2002–17 Introduced from the American Friends Service Committee were Gary Gillespie (Baltimore, Homewood), Baltimore Urban Peace Movement, Kathryn Liss, National Coordinator for the Help Increase the Peace Youth Empowerment Program, and Bette Hoover, Washington Peace and Economic Justice Program. Steven Angel, Leatherock Professor of Quaker Studies at Earlham School of Religion and a member of Tallahassee Monthly Meeting, Southeast Yearly Meeting, was present and brought greetings from ESR.

Visitors from Torreon/Starlake Chapter of the Navajo Nation were present and were introduced. Friends had the opportunity of meeting Leo Charley, Chapter Elder representing Chapter President David Rico, Eunice Charley, wife of Leo Charley, Marlene Waukazoo, Chapter Secretary-Treasurer, and Wally Toledo, Chapter Administrator.

Kay Anderson, San Francisco Monthly Meeting, Pacific Yearly Meeting, introduced herself. She is now living in Silver Spring, Maryland. All visitors were given the freedom of the Meeting.

The Clerk announced that the “Quaker Classifieds,” a listing of several openings with Yearly Meeting Committees, had been published and was available for Friends to view. If a Friend wanted to be considered for a committee, there was also a process to advise the Nominating Committee of his/her interest.

Y2002–18 Ron Akins (Bethesda), Clerk of the Camping Program Committee, noted that things are going very well at all four camps. He then introduced the camping directors.

As Linda Garrettson, Catoctin Camp Director began her report, the sessions erupted into laughter as she told of the point system used to encourage campers to remain hydrated during our recent heat wave– with points being given for following nature’s call of bodily eliminations. In another vein she also told of the depth of the camp’s Meetings for Worship and the success of the staff.

Dana Foster, Shiloh Camp Director, typified the excitement that campers feel as they gather with one another and in their Meetings for Worship. She told of the creative ways that ‘fun’ leads to a sense of joy and discovery, with one group even “running away” to create a sense of togetherness.

The Opequon Camp report was given by Elaine Brigham, Camp Director. She started by saying “thank you” to the Yearly Meeting for the support given to the camping program. Their six weeks of camping were full and were very exciting. One special art program was held in the woods, with the ‘artists’ having an opportunity to share with the other campers the inspiration for their art works. The creativity never really ended.

The Teen Adventure Program, directed by Whitney Thompson and Alison Downey, is a program that follows after youth have participated in the other camping programs. This year there was an extra trip, but there were still 20 campers on the waiting list. Within the Teen Adventure program there are two levels, both years stressing service and service projects, and the second year focusing on leadership training. Both levels spend the major part of their time on the trails.

David Hunter (Frederick) announced the Alumni/ae weekend for all present and previous campers in the Yearly Meeting. The reunion will be held over the Labor Day weekend at Catoctin Camp.

During the entire morning’s program relating to camping Friends were reminded of the impact that Barry Morley had had in developing the program that we have today. Lamar Matthew (York) closed this session with the acknowledgement that Baltimore Yearly Meeting’s camping program is a major outreach program for the Yearly Meeting.

Y2002–19 Minutes 16 through 18 were read, corrected and approved.

Y2002–20 After a morning break, Sheila Bach (Langely Hill) read an excerpt from the *Friends Intelligencer*, 6 month 10th, 1869. “Truly it is a thankless labor [to raise funds for Quaker causes], and those who do lay aside their personal feelings, and engage voluntarily ... deserve at least the sympathy of those who *say* that they approve of their purpose.”

Marion Ballard (Bethesda), Clerk of Stewardship and Finance Committee, presented the first reading of the proposed budget for 2003. This proposed budget appears on pages 71–86 of *Advance Reports*.

She noted that from a temporarily restricted fund for camp improvements, \$125,000 will be transferred next year for capital improvements at Shiloh and Catoctin. \$13,500 will be spent this year at Opequon, the funds coming from the Capital Reserves Fund. The proposed budget for next year will increase by 9%, but the apportionment to Monthly Meetings will rise only by 4.5%. The apportionment figures were displayed in the *Advance Reports*, with the total increase being approximately \$12,000. The total BYM budget now totals more than one million dollars.

Marion noted that Stewardship and Finance is recommending that in any year that we increase our contribution to Friends General Conference (FGC) and Friends United Meeting (FUM), that 80% of the increase would go to FGC and 20% to FUM. She also indicated that the camping programs will be asked to increase the amounts that they pay for the use of camp facilities

When the comment was made that in our budget we “get more than we pay for,” one Friend ask why we think it is good order to expect to get more than we pay for.

Y2002–21 At a later period in the morning session the minutes were read to this point, corrected and approved.

Y2002–22 Indian Affairs Committee Clerk Flossie Fullerton (Sandy Spring) opened the next session. We heard first about the sub-committees organized to assist with the final two years of Pat Kutzner’s (Washington) embraced ministry at Torreon/Starlake Chapter of the Navajo Nation. There is an Oversight Subcommittee, clerked by Howard Fullerton (Sandy Spring) and Susan Lepper (Washington) and a Support Committee Clerked by Jane Stowe (Adelphi). Katrina Mason (Bethesda) is the Clerk of a small group concerned with the youth exchange. These groups have met several times during the year. On May 25th representatives from all the subcommittees, plus Frank Massey (Sandy Spring), Lamar Matthew (York) and Miriam Green (Baltimore Homewood), met to discuss the long-range plan for Baltimore Yearly Meeting’s involvement with Torreon/Starlake. This group will meet again in Eighth Month. Flossie said that it had become clear that whatever role BYM is prepared to have with Torreon/Starlake, there must be a corporate leading about that role. It is their expectation to bring the results of the discussions to the fall Interim Meeting. Jane Stowe said that the subcommittees have done a good job in keeping the Indian Affairs Committee informed of their work via minutes and reports.

Pat Kutzner (Washington), a Friend embraced to work among the Torreon/StarlakeChapter of the Navajo nation, spoke of the work that she is undertaking in New Mexico. She elaborated on the special programs that are taking place – from youth programs to water and irrigation projects. She noted that there is a folder of information on the Starlake chapter in the Bookstore this week. The introduction of solar power into the community still remains a priority of the Torreon area, as do the Job Corps Center and the desire for a local high school in the area. Pat noted that there will be a time this evening to meet with our guests from Torreon.

Wally Toledo, Chapter Administrator and Leo Charley, Chapter Elder, brought special greetings from the Chapter. Leo, in his speech, translated the words of George Fox concerning “the children of the light” into Navajo and greeted us in his language.

Permission was given for the Recording Clerk to read the proposed minute on the report of the Indian Affairs Committee and the statement of Pat Kutzner at the next session of this body.

Fifth Day Morning
1 Eighth Month 2002
9:30 a.m.

Y2002–23 We gathered to worship, with Lamar Matthew (York), Clerk, Margaret Stambaugh (Gettysburg), Reading Clerk, Young Friends Alicia Henzi (Takoma Park) and Hannah Mayer (Maury River), and Ronald Mattson (Baltimore, Stony Run), Recording Clerk, at the table.

Excerpts of Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting’s Spiritual State of the Meeting were read. It noted that “many of us feel renewed commitment and energy from these tests of faith....At this violent point in our national history, at this challenging point in our spiritual journey, we continue to grope ineffectively, but with hope, toward the Light.”

Y2002 – 24 Minutes 22 and 23 were read and approved.

Y2002–25 Nominating Committee’s First Reading. Ruth Flower (Takoma Park), Co-Clerk, brought forward 78 names to fill vacancies on standing committees. Ten names were removed from committee lists because of resignations. The ten resignations were accepted.

The names of five Friends, with four alternate names, were proposed as representatives to the 2004 Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Triennial in New Zealand. Two Friends are being recommended as our representatives to a FWCC, Section of the Americas, Peace Consultation in North Carolina in January, 2003.

The Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee brings forward the recommendation that membership on the Camp Property Management Committee be increased from six to nine, because of the increased work load.

Ruth then spoke of areas that need additional names and Friends’ involvement. Clarification was sought as to the timing and process needed for the unification of Ministry and Counsel and the Committee for the Nurture and Recognition of Ministry. (See **Y2002–10**.) The two committees will meet tomorrow to begin the process of framing the transition to merge the two committees.

Y2002–26 Trudy Rogers (Seneca Valley), Clerk of the Manual of Procedure Committee brought forth for a first reading proposed changes in language regarding Peace and Social Concerns Committee, Indian Affairs Committee, Right Sharing of World Resources Committee, Youth Programs Committee, Friends in Education Committee and Religious Education Committee. These proposed changes will be returned to this body for action on Sixth Day.

Y2002–27 Friends United Meeting Triennial Report. Baltimore Yearly Meeting had ten representatives present at the FUM Triennial in Kenya in Seventh Month. The ten Friends representing Baltimore Yearly Meeting were: Howard and Flossie Fullerton (Sandy Spring), Rich and Joan Liversidge (Sandy Spring), Kathy and Alan Wright (Sandy Spring), Lamar Matthew (York), Frank Massey (Sandy Spring), Lauri Wilner (State College), and David Zarembka (Seneca Valley). The last two named were appointed by the other representatives to complete our delegation after the group's arrival in Africa, pursuant to Friends United Meeting policy.

Howard Fullerton said that this Triennial also celebrated the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Quakers in Kenya. During the Triennial sessions there was wonderful singing, daily Bible study, moving reports on the Friends Schools at Ramallah, a series of workshops (including one on marriage and another on AIDS), and limited business sessions. The new Friends United Meeting Clerk is Brent McKinney of North Carolina Yearly Meeting–FUM. A newly appointed FUM trustee is Rich Liversidge (Sandy Spring).

The Friends United Meeting's minute on the Middle East was presented to BYM by Howard Fullerton (Sandy Spring). It has been referred to our Peace and Social Concerns Committee. The minute as adopted by FUM reads:

Friends United Meeting Minute 14 July 2002

Members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) representing 29 Yearly Meetings from eight countries meeting in Triennial Sessions of Friends United Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, are conscious of the absence of our Palestinian Quaker brothers and sisters. Owing to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, they have not been able to join us in our rich fellowship in the Spirit.

As we have experienced the loss of their presence we are reminded of the devastating impact of the conflict on all people in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and wish to extend our deepest concern and desire for peace.

We are tempted to feel helpless in the face of the complexities of the situation but know that we can reach out in Christian love to all people in the region.

The belief among some Christians that unquestioning support for current Israeli policies might hasten Christ's Second Coming is doing grievous harm to the possibilities for peace, justice, and the application of international law, and has especially impacted the Palestinian Christian community remaining in the area. Christ's purpose is that all might have life and live it more abundantly. We reject as contrary to the Good News a focus on the Second Coming which denies this life to others.

We call on member meetings and churches in FUM to demonstrate in a tangible way their love, accompaniment, and concern. One way to do this is to pray for individual Christian congregations and write to them in expression of our solidarity and support.

We recommend that FUM, in consultation with Christian communities in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, provide contact information for Friends. We ask FUM to implement a plan to send teams and continue to work with other Christian bodies, the Christian Peacemaker Teams, and the World Council of Churches to find ways to work for peace, justice, and reconciliation.

Friends accepted this Minute and will refer sections to our constituent Monthly Meetings and other appropriate bodies.

There is a directive in the above minute for Friends United Meeting to send peace teams into Israel and the occupied Palestine Territories. These teams might include Yearly Meeting Clerks and Yearly Meeting General Secretaries. The Clerk said that tentative dates for such visits have been suggested for January–March 2003. Our Clerk and General Secretary have received an invitation to participate in such a visit and should they feel led to go they will travel with our love and support. Approved. (Note: it was suggested that should our Clerk and or General Secretary not be able to go that we ask if others might go in their place. At this time the invitation is very specifically directed to Lamar Matthew and Frank Massey.)

Y2002–28 Minutes 25, 26 and 27 were read, corrected and APPROVED.

Y2002–29 Bonnie Stockslager (Herndon), Clerk of the Ad Hoc Committee on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns, brought in this group's annual report. She said that next year a request may come for Baltimore Yearly Meeting to consider enlarging the Committee's charge to include advocacy as well as education work.

Bonnie closed with a query that had come to her this morning: "What are we doing to prune away fear and intolerance so that we are able to reach out in the Light of God's loving acceptance and perfect appreciation?"

Hannah Mayer (Maury River) read a Minute that Young Friends had presented to Baltimore Yearly Meeting in 1999. Part of the Minute (see Y99-23) says: “We, as Young Friends of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, living in the Quaker tradition, believe that this Yearly Meeting should not only permit but should embrace same-sex marriage. Quaker testimonies, according to Baltimore Yearly Meeting’s *Faith and Practice*, provide ample justification for this stance. ‘The testimonies spring from respect for truth, for peace, harmony and a settled attention to practice love; for simplicity, community, and the equal worth of all people.’ (p. 96)”

Y2002–30 A Concern Arising from the Friends United Meeting Triennial. Marjorie F. Scott (Baltimore, Stony Run), Clerk of Interim Meeting, was asked to preside over this session and moved to the table.

Lauri Perman (State College), as one of the Triennial delegates, read a background paper that had been written to explain what had happened at the Triennial when Lamar Matthew, Clerk of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, was denied a role as a worship-sharing leader at the Triennial since he is gay. The paper Lauri read was a work in progress and was withdrawn from being quoted verbatim in this minute. (See minutes **Y2002–35** and **Y2002–43**.) [Later in the sessions this revised Statement was read and allowed to be placed in our Minutes. See **Y2002–55**]

Discussion followed and Friends asked questions and expressed their sadness that this had happened. There was a general reaction of both pain and a sense of betrayal at this action. One Friend noted that we had not shared with Friends United Meeting the fact that we have 34 constituent Monthly Meeting who have approved the practice of same gender unions/marriages. Another Friend said that this was the beginning of a process with FUM.

At one point in the morning’s session a group of Young Friends had risen in the rear of the room, holding aloft a large multi-colored banner that said, “We love you Lamar!” Another sign read “We support gay rights.”

Friends approved waiting for Baltimore’s delegates to the Triennial to bring to us at a later sitting of Baltimore Yearly Meeting a statement noting our pain and discomfort at the action of Friends United Meeting. We expect that this statement would include suggestions for action.

(**Minute 30** was separately read for approval immediately at the conclusion of the discussion, but subsequent editorial changes suggested to the Recording Clerk that it be reconsidered before final approval is given. See **Y2002–35**.)

Y2002–31 Lamar Matthew (York), Clerk, returned to the table. The minutes on our Peace Testimony and Restorative Justice, not considered because of the time taken for the previous Concern, will come to a later session. Friends adjourned for lunch.

Sixth Day Morning
2 Eighth Month 2002
9:30 a.m.

Y2002–32 As we gathered to worship on Sixth Day morning Lamar Matthew (York), Clerk, Suzie Fetter (Roanoke), Reading Clerk and Ronald Mattson (Baltimore, Stony Run), Recording Clerk, were at the table.

Joining us for Worship this morning were all the younger Friends who were at Yearly Meeting sessions. They and their adult sponsors responded as twenty-nine Monthly Meetings of Baltimore Yearly Meeting were identified as being present.

Y2002–33 Eric Uberseder (Dunnings Creek), Clerk of the Junior Yearly Meeting program staff opened his presentation by telling us that 150 packets of school supplies and personal care items had been put together for Ramallah Friends School at the inter-generational program last evening. \$500 has been collected to pay the shipping costs. June Confer (Adelphi) introduced the leaders in the morning programs and Anna Rains (Adelphi) introduced the leaders in the afternoon programs. Anna gave special thanks to David Greene (Baltimore, Homewood), who had brought “MarbleTag,” a game board that he had invented.

Karen Cunningham (Adelphi) thanked all the Friends who helped care for the 12 children in the Nursery. Coordinator of the Junior High program Linda Coates (Little Britain), introduced those who had helped with this age group. Sandy Robson (Baltimore, Stony Run) gave special thanks to the FAPs (Friends Adult Presences), some of whom have sacrificed their sleep and stayed up with Young Friends until 4:30 a.m.

Appreciation was shown and thanks were given to all the Friends who have worked with the our young Friends. Friends requested that the names of all those working with the next generation of Friends be included in the Minutes. Those Friends are: in the Nursery Program: Ellen Johnson, Karen Cunnyngham, Jules Arginteanu, Jennifer Morris, Ellie Hilaman, Kevin and Jenny Caughlin, Melanie Gifford, and Gloria Stern; Four Year Olds Morning Class: Norman Williams and Marcy Seitel; Rising Kindergarten/1st Grade: June Confer and Susan Williams; Rising 2nd/3rd: Linda and Eric Uberseder; Rising 4th/5th: Sarah Buchanon-Wollaston and Margo Lehman; Afternoon Program: Anna Rain, Linda

Uberseder, Susan Williams, Blaine Keener, Jim Lehman, Ellie Hilaman, Sherri Morgan, Scott Garrison and Melanie Gifford; Evening Program: Susan Vanderhoff, Norman Williams, Sarah Buchanon-Wollaston, Sherri Morgan, Ellie Hilaman and Jim Lehman; Junior Young Friends: Linda Coates, Ron Stroud, Mark Brabson, Bill Strein, Mary Campbell, and Jim Lehman.

An animated performance by all the younger Friends present of the song “This Little Light of Mine” was warmly received by all in the auditorium. When asked how many children were in this wonderful program, the Clerk said “A multitude!”

Y2002–34 Religious Education Committee: Chuck Fager (State College), Clerk of the Religious Education Committee, reviewed the work of this Committee during the past several years, noting that there have been some ‘lean’ periods. The Committee wants to be pro-active and has turned its focus to reaching out to support Monthly Meetings, the events at fall and spring Yearly Meeting Days and at Annual Session. They noted that one area they will work on is recruiting teachers for First-Day schools in the Monthly Meetings.

The fourth and fifth graders passed out cards to all present so that individuals could pledge themselves to teach First Day school in their home Monthly Meetings. “Lucretia Mott” and “Elizabeth Fry,” portrayed by Margo Lehman (Sandy Spring) and Sarah Buchanan-Wollaston (Deer Creek), described how they had prepared the curriculum materials used at this Yearly Meeting, based on the theme of “Children of the Light.” These children are part of our Yearly Meeting and Margo and Sarah testified to the joys and enrichments that come from working with our young people. As one Friend remarked, “Children deal with questions that the adults would never dare consider.”

Y2002–35 Minutes 29 through 34 were read, corrected and approved, with the verbatim copy of the statement from the delegates to the FUM Triennial being withdrawn for re-writing by those delegates.

Y2002–36 Deborah Haines (Alexandria) was acknowledged and introduced as one of a group of women within Alexandria Monthly Meeting who have now become the editors of *The Friendly Woman*. Friends are urged to subscribe to this publication.

Y2002–37 As we gathered after a brief break, the Reading Clerk read sections of Maury River’s Spiritual State of the Meeting report. “In our discussions we showed our willingness to wrestle with issues that don’t have easy answers, and in an experiential way we are learning that the Peace Testimony at times means accepting uncertainty and ambiguity.”

Ed Norton (York) brought back to Yearly Meeting the responses that had been received to York Monthly Meeting's 2001 request for a review of the Friends peace testimony. Twenty four Monthly Meetings responded and Ed read extracts from each response. The responses ranged from "we are unable to reach unity regarding the peace testimony" to "as we reaffirm the unchanging principles of peace, we acknowledge the radically changed nature of war."

Friends were ultimately not able to unite with the proposed minute that had been written by a group of Friends from York Monthly Meeting, as based upon the findings of the Monthly Meetings that responded to their survey. This group was given a charge to keep before the Yearly Meeting a reminder of what the Peace Testimony is all about. They were also urged to rework the minute in light of today's discussion and bring a new minute back to either Baltimore Yearly Meeting or to Interim Meeting.

Y2002-38 The evening's program, introduced by John Salzberg (Washington), explored the theme of "The United States, the United Nations and Iraq: Prospects for war and peace: what can Friends do?" John introduced Dennis Halliday (an Irish Friend), former United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Humanitarian Coordinator in Baghdad, Iraq, also Peter Lems, Program Assistant for Iraq at the American Friends Service Committee. It was pointed out that sanctions are a form of warfare and are illegal and immoral. Sanctions against Iraq have helped increase the support that Saddam Hussein has in his own country.

Dennis enumerated alternatives which Friends could encourage: 1) show respect for Iraqi civilization, note accomplishments of the past, and potential of the future, 2) show respect for sovereignty, 3) bring an end to the no-fly zone as this is hideously illegal, 4) end social and cultural demolition, 5) stop destroying the hopes, lives, and dreams of these people and end the isolation and alienation of younger Iraqis. 6) deal with the economic embargo—take the risk of allowing the economy rebuild while watching against arms buildup, and 7) end the demonization of Saddam Hussein. "Use our new-felt vulnerability to change the way we do business—begin to invest in people."

Peter spoke of his visit with an AFSC delegation to Iraq in June, 2002, and reported to BYM on the AFSC Campaign of Conscience, which we endorsed in 2000. He noted that the "Peace Pledge of Support for Iraq" is a way to say we reject the current U.S. policy towards Iraq. (Thanks to Geni Elliott (Baltimore, Stony Run), for her excellent notes on the evening program.)

Seventh Day
2 Eighth Month 2002
9:30 a.m.

Y2002-39 Seated at the table as our time of worship began were Lamar Matthew (York), Young Friends Julian Brennan, Deanna Boyd (Baltimore, Stony Run), and Clerk of Young Friends Rachel Stacy (Gunpowder), Gail Gann (Baltimore, Stony Run), Reading Clerk, and Ronald Mattson (Baltimore, Stony Run), Recording Clerk.

Gail Gann read excerpts from Hopewell Centre's Spiritual State of the Meeting Report. "Our worship shifts us back into the flow of love, reminding us to integrate our secular lives with Divine purpose...."

Y2002-40 Ramona Buck of Patapsco Preparative Meeting was present and introduced. A Minute was read from Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting indicating its belief that there is a readiness within Patapsco Preparative Meeting to now become a Monthly Meeting. (See **I2002-26**) Loud approval was given. We are happy to embrace this group as our newest Monthly Meeting. Patapsco Monthly Meeting's Clerk, Cherri Morgan, was introduced. Note was taken of the fact that they already have a square of muslin to produce a contribution for the skirt at the Clerk's table.

Y2002-41 Trudy Rogers (Seneca Valley), Clerk of the Manual of Procedure Committee, brought forth, for a second reading, six proposed changes to the *Manual of Procedure*.

1. PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

At the recommendation of the Trustees and the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, Representative Meeting approved laying down the Fund for Conscience Subcommittee and transferring the balance in the Fund to the Fund for Education and Training. It is recommended that the last two paragraphs of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee description be deleted.

~~A **Fund for Conscience** was established by Baltimore Yearly Meeting in 1986. The purpose of the Fund is to support those members and regular attenders of Meetings within Baltimore Yearly Meeting who may be punished or denied government assistance in areas including, but not limited to, education because of a decision of conscience, such as not to register for Selective Service, not to pay taxes for military purposes, or to participate non-violently in a peace and justice protest.~~

~~The **Fund for Conscience Subcommittee** oversees the Fund, publicizing it, making appropriate referrals, and making loans or grants consistent with its purpose. The Subcommittee is convened by the Clerk of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. The members include the Clerk and one additional member of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, a high school youth representing the Youth Programs Committee, and representatives of Young Adult Friends and of Trustees.~~

2. INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Indian Affairs Committee consists of approximately 12 members nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting.

~~In 1795 Quakers in the northern Shenandoah Valley, following the model established by William Penn in Pennsylvania, set up a fund to pay American Indians for lands Quakers had settled. Unable to locate survivors of the natives who had previously lived in the valley, these Friends set aside the monies for assistance of American Indians under the care of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Since that time the Indian Affairs Committee has distributed the interest income from this endowment to organizations which assist and advocate for Native Americans.~~

~~This Committee also stimulates interest in and activity for the concerning American Indians. It cooperates with other Yearly Meetings and other Friends' organizations in projects for the benefit of American Indians, and. It concerns itself with pending legislation on the national and local, regional and national levels involving Native American issues.~~

The ongoing work of the Indian Affairs Committee is inspired by its history. In 1795 Quakers in the northern Shenandoah Valley, following the model established by William Penn in Pennsylvania, set up a fund under the care of Baltimore Yearly Meeting to pay American Indians for lands Quakers had settled. Unable to locate survivors of the natives, the Indian Affairs Committee distributes the interest income from this endowment to organizations which assist and advocate for American Indians.

This Committee recommends to the Nominating Committee each year one person for appointment by the Yearly Meeting to serve as the Yearly Meeting's representative to the Associated Committee of Friends on Indian Affairs.

3. RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Right Sharing of World Resources Committee is composed of ~~15~~ about nine members nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting. In addition, individuals may be co-opted to serve on the Committee, particularly from those local Meetings not otherwise represented.

This Committee ~~should~~ works to keep alive throughout the Yearly Meeting membership the challenge to simplify our own lives and to share with people in the developing countries our financial resources and our own lives and experiences. work in partnership with our sisters and brothers in the U. S. and throughout the world for a more equitable distribution of the world's resources. In doing so, this Committee, with the guidance of and in cooperation with works with the independent Quaker organization Right Sharing of World Resources, Inc., ~~is responsible for selecting the specific projects of economic and social development to which funds contributed under this program by members of the Yearly Meeting shall be devoted.~~ The committee facilitates the coordination and exchange of information to meet these concerns. It provides support for community development and self-help programs throughout the world. The Committee raises funds for these programs through activities such as simple meals.

The Committee also works with Monthly Meetings to address these concerns. It may also bring to the attention of the Yearly Meeting other international and domestic concerns that affect relationships between the economically developed and less-developed countries or the relationship between people with greatly different economic means wherever they may live.

4. YOUTH PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

The Youth Programs Committee consists of eight to ten adults nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by Yearly Meeting and the Young Friends Conference Clerks, the Young Friends Yearly Meeting Program Planners and two Young Friends appointed by the Young Friends Conference Business Meeting. ~~The adult Co-clerks and the youth Co-clerks of the Young Friends Conference Subcommittee, the Young Friends Yearly Meeting Program Planning Subcommittee, Young Quakes United Subcommittee, and of the regional youth oversight committees serve on this Committee.~~ The regional youth coordinators, the Yearly Meeting YouthQuake representative, and the Associate Youth Secretary are ~~also~~ ex officio members. ~~of the Youth Programs Committee.~~

The Youth Programs Committee oversees and coordinates all Yearly Meeting youth programs ~~other than camping programs and Junior Yearly Meeting~~ for junior high/middle school and high school youth, with the exception of the Camping

Program and Junior Yearly Meeting, and provides for the various needs and interests of those youth. It provides advice and support for the Youth Secretary. To do these things the Committee will:

1. Recruit and mentor adults in Baltimore Yearly Meeting who have a leading to work with Young Friends in the Yearly Meeting.
2. Support the Youth Secretary in coordinating and communicating with Junior Yearly Meeting and other Yearly Meeting Committees involved in youth programs.
3. Review and revise as needed the health and safety standards for Baltimore Yearly Meeting youth events and procedures for dealing with physical, verbal and sexual abuse or harassment which have been brought to the Young Friends Executive Committee or the Youth Programs Committee. Revisions will be approved by a Young Friends Conference Business Meeting.

By providing retreats, workshops, and consultation, the Youth Programs Committee facilitates the training, nurturing, and support of adults who work with the junior high/middle school and high school youth of Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

The Committee meets twice a year or as necessary. The bulk of its work is done through the Young Friends Conference Subcommittee, the Young Friends Yearly Meeting Program Planning Subcommittee, the Young Quakes United Planning Subcommittee, the Regional Youth Programs Oversight Subcommittee, and other subcommittees as deemed necessary.

The Youth Programs Committee appoints a Baltimore Yearly Meeting high school youth as a representative to the Fund for Conscience Subcommittee of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. The adult and youth Co-clerks of the Young Friends Yearly Meeting Program Planning Subcommittee The Young Friends Yearly Meeting Program Planners serve on the Program Committee.

The Youth Programs Committee names an adult representative to serve on the Coordinating Council for Youth Programs. One adult representative to serve on the Coordinating Council for Youth Programs is also named by each of the following: the Young Friends Conference Subcommittee, the Young Friends Yearly Meeting Program Planning Subcommittee, and the Young Quakes United Planning Subcommittee.

Every three years, according to the YouthQuake cycle, the Youth Programs Committee recommends the name of an adult to the Nominating Committee for appointment by the Yearly Meeting to serve a three-year term as the Yearly Meeting representative to the YouthQuake Planning Committee.

The Young Friends Executive Committee is nominated and appointed by the Young Friends Conference Business Meeting and works under the care of the Young Friends Conference Subcommittee to facilitate conferences. To encourage youth to participate actively in the affairs of Yearly Meeting, the Young Friends Executive Committee Clerk is a member of Representative Interim Meeting. Details of the procedures of the Young Friends Executive Committee and Young Friends Conferences can be found in the *Young Friends Handbook*, available from Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

5. FRIENDS IN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Friends in Education Committee consists of approximately nine members nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting. In addition, individuals may be coopted to serve on the Committee.

The Committee works to support and nurture the schooling of young people consistent with the beliefs and practices of the Religious Society of Friends. The Committee promotes outreach and networking among the Friends' schools in Baltimore Yearly Meeting, and serves as a resource on Quaker values in the educational setting. The Committee also supports Friends who are home schooling or involved in public schools. It cooperates with the Friends Council on Education and other organizations providing support to Friends' schools and Friends involved in educational endeavors.

6. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Religious Education Committee consists of approximately 12 persons nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by the Yearly Meeting, and the Clerks of the Religious Education Committees of all Monthly Meetings. The Committee is an avenue through which the Yearly Meeting exercises its responsibility for the spiritual nurture of its young people and adults.

The Committee supports Monthly Meeting Religious Education Committees and First Day School teachers in their work with all age groups. This is done through curriculum planning, resource information, and consultation with committee members, as well as through workshops, teacher preparation programs, and retreats. ~~The Committee maintains an extensive library at the Yearly Meeting office. A list of resources is available on request; Friends may visit the Library or may borrow through the mail.~~

The Committee appoints two persons to serve on the Ethel Reynolds Fund Committee for one-year terms, and names a member to serve on the Sue Thomas Turner Quaker Education Fund Committee for a two-year term.

All were APPROVED, with permission granted for editorial changes to be made to the first sentence regarding tasks for the Youth Programs Committee.

Y2002-42 Betty Hutchinson (Sandy Spring), Clerk of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee, brought for a second reading two proposed Minutes from her Committee.

David Etheridge (Washington) read the text of a “Minute Endorsing the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund” (HR1186). The Minute, which follows, was APPROVED.

**MINUTE SUPPORTING THE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM PEACE TAX FUND
(HR 1186)**

Baltimore Yearly Meeting expresses its support of those who are conscientiously opposed to taxes for war and the preparation for war, in keeping with our more than 350-year religious witness for peace and our historical peace testimony: “We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end or under any pretense whatsoever.” We ask that our elected officials support and work for the Religious Freedom Peace tax Fund Act (currently HR 1186) as a way of recognizing our deep commitment to peace and justice. We thank Representative John Lewis (D-GA) for introducing this legislation, and ask all U.S. Congressional Representatives to join in co-sponsorship the Bill.

HR1186 will allow legally defined conscientious objectors to pay 100% of their federal income taxes into a separate fund that will be used only for government spending that is for a non-military purpose. Conscientious objection to participation in military service based upon moral, ethical, or religious beliefs is recognized in Federal law, with provisions for alternative service. Taxpayers who are conscientious objectors recognize their civic and legal responsibilities to pay their full share of Federal taxes, and seek to do so without violating such beliefs.

The level of contribution to the peace tax will be annually entered into the Congressional Record, and information about the Fund will be published in both the tax return form and the instruction booklet. The apportionment powers of Congress will not be restricted, while relief of suffering will be granted to tens of thousands otherwise forced by conscience to refuse payment of taxes, or who choose to earn less than the taxable level of income.

We note that a similar Minute has been approved by Atlanta Friends Meeting and by Yearly Meetings throughout the U.S.

The second Minute, “House Concurrent Resolution #368”, was read by Betty Hutchinson (Sandy Spring). This Minute, appearing below, was APPROVED with minor editorial changes being allowed.

MINUTE ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION #368

On March 20, The Honorable Ron Paul (R-TX) introduced a resolution (House Concurrent Resolution 368: Search Thomas: Bill Number: “HCR 368”) which states, “that it is the sense of Congress that reinstating the military draft, or any other form of compulsory military service in the U.S. would be detrimental to the long term military interest of the US, violative of individual liberties protected by the Constitution, and inconsistent with the values underlying a free society as expressed in the Declaration of Independence.

Ron Paul cited Pentagon studies showing a draft is not necessary, and in his speech introducing the legislation pointed out how it could actually be detrimental to the military. He referred to opponents of the draft from a wide variety of perspectives: Barry Goldwater, Bill Bradley, the ACLU, the National Taxpayers Union, Milton Freeman, as well as Ronald Reagan.

Currently there are six sponsors: Rep John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich), Rep John J. Duncan, Jr. (R-TN), Rep. Cynthia A. McKinney (D-GA), Rep George Miller (D-CA), Rep Patsy T. Mink (D-HI), and Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA). While this resolution, if passed, would not prevent Congress from later initiating a draft, it is still strategically important in framing the debate in Congress and creating an atmosphere that makes reinstatement of the draft less likely.

On one level, a resumption of the draft really isn’t likely: the Pentagon claims that the “volunteer” military has been successful; it remembers the difficulty of dealing with conscripts and already has enough trouble dealing with “volunteers” who do not want to be there. The DOD’s own studies from the 1990’s could not envision any scenario that would require a draft for military necessity.

However, as the administration commits more U.S. troops to more areas in conflict around the globe, they are beginning to be stretched thin. While mobilization plans call for utilizing the reserves before moving toward a draft, it has already been done. Congressional fervor to get everyone involved in supporting the “war on terrorism” opens up the possibility of a call for reinstating the draft.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting minutes its support for House Concurrent Resolution 368 and calls on our Congressional members to support House Concurrent Resolution 368.

A third Minute dealing with the need to work for the preservation of our civil liberties was now proposed and presented for a first reading by Ralph Blankfield (Sandy Spring). It will be laid over and will return to us tomorrow morning.

Y2002–43 Marjorie F. Scott (Baltimore, Stony Run), Clerk of Interim Meeting, resumed the Clerk's chair. She asked Lauri Perman (State College) to introduce a revised Minute (See **Y2002–30** and **Y2002–35**) from the Baltimore Yearly Meeting delegates who were present at the recent Friends United Meeting's Triennial Session in Kenya.

The Minute was considered at great length and was ultimately approved, with the understanding that the reason for this Minute's coming forward will be explained in a cover letter addressed to the FUM General Secretary and Clerk of FUM General Board. One Friend was recorded as standing aside. After a brief intermission the Minute was read once again and was accepted. The Minute reads:

MINUTE FROM THE BYM DELEGATES TO THE FUM TRIENNIAL

We are distressed that FUM staff denied the Clerk of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Lamar Matthew, the opportunity to serve as a 2002 Triennial worship-sharing leader because he is a gay man in a same-sex union. We regret that Friends United Meeting members were thereby denied the opportunity to experience, as we have, Lamar's spiritual gifts of love, patience, and humor, his commitment to Christ, and his knowledge of Quaker history and practice. Our reflections on this matter in annual session have allowed us to understand the depths of our collective hurt and anger.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting affirms with the Gospel of John that the Light of Christ is the true light that enlightens everyone. We understand FUM's Purpose Statement to be similarly inclusive: "Friends United Meeting commits itself to energize and equip Friends through the power of the Holy Spirit to gather people into fellowships where Jesus Christ is known, loved and obeyed as Teacher and Lord." We ask FUM to honor the discernment of constituent yearly meetings in their choice of leaders and representatives.

From the Advices of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice*, we offer these statements of Truth that have been given to us through continuing revelation of the Christ Within:

Every Friend is called to be a servant of God. Each of us has God-given talents, which we are obliged to develop and use to the glory of God...From its earliest days, the Society of Friends has supported the equal right of all individuals to be treated with dignity and respect... We

oppose all forms of prejudice. Prejudice should never be allowed to keep any person from a chance to develop or use their abilities...

In accord with these advices, we affirm that gay and lesbian Friends within Baltimore Yearly Meeting make valuable contributions to the yearly meeting. These Friends have truly exercised their gifts for the building up of our spiritual communities, according to Paul's advice to the Corinthians. Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Search and Nominating Committees seek Friends for leadership roles by discerning whether they possess the spiritual depth, clerking skills, and loving and caring natures to enhance the life of the Yearly Meeting, regardless of sexual orientation or whether Friends may be in same-gender relationships.

"We urge Friends to put new energy into the struggle to end the oppression, often unconscious, that is imposed on people because of their sexual orientation. The myths about homosexuality that perpetuate deep-rooted discrimination need to be dispelled through educational efforts." These statements, taken from Baltimore Yearly Meeting **1973 Minute 87**, are worth re-affirming in 2002.

Truth requires us to acknowledge that we have not come to this position quickly or easily. In writing this minute, we are being obedient to the Light as we have discerned it over many years; and in faith and hope, we feel called to share our concerns about prejudice and inclusiveness with the General Board of Friends United Meeting.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting asks the FUM General Board:

- (1) To confirm that FUM policy governing the selection of worship-sharing and workshop leaders and other leadership roles within FUM is inclusive and not discriminatory. That is, to confirm that leaders are chosen based on spiritual gifts without regard to sexual orientation or whether Friends are in same gender relationships.
- (2) To review and clarify the respective roles, responsibilities, and authority of FUM staff and committees.

We pray for healing, guidance, and reconciliation to lead us all forward.

Marjorie F. Scott (Baltimore, Stony Run) thanked our delegates to the FUM Triennial for all they have done for us and asked Friends to hold them in our prayers. Friends settled into worship.

The Clerk returned to the table.

Y2002-44 Ruth Flower (Takoma Park), Co-Clerk of the Nominating Committee, provided the second reading of the names proposed to carry on the Committee work of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. All the names were approved. Friends

also accepted the resignation of Lee Foster (Bethesda) from Ministry and Counsel. Several names were brought forward for a first reading. [See full Committee listing at the back of this *Yearbook*.]

Y2002–45 Marion Ballard (Bethesda), Clerk of the Stewardship and Finance Committee, presented the second reading of Baltimore Yearly Meeting's proposed budget and individual Monthly Meetings' apportionments for 2003. Both were approved, with a directive being given to the Stewardship and Finance Committee to have a new line entered for Patapsco Monthly Meeting, thus necessitating an equal decrease in Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting's apportionment.

Marion spoke of a group which is looking at long-range improvements needed at our camps and also the need for a committee on development. The Long Range Property Planning Subcommittee is composed of Howard Zuses (Sandy Spring), representing Trustees, Ron Akins (Bethesda), Camping Program, Patti Nesbitt (Hopewell Centre), Program and Property Committees, Tom Horne (Takoma Park), Property, Sheila Bach (Langley Hill), Trustees, Arlene Rodenbeck (Bethesda), Stewardship and Finance and Property, and Kevin Laughlin (Sandy Spring), Ex-officio on Stewardship and Finance. The Development Subcommittee is in the process of formation, with Gretchen Hall (Alexandria) and Marion Ballard (Bethesda) having accepted at this time.

Marjorie F. Scott (Baltimore, Stony Run) told of a sabbatical fund that has been established to support Frank Massey's six-month stay at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre as Friend-in-Residence.

Y2002–46 Friends approved returning to a Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business at 1:30 p.m. this afternoon. **Minutes 39** through **46** were read and approved.

Seventh Day Afternoon
3 Eighth Month 2002
1:30 p.m.

Y2002–47 As Friends returned for this additional Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business Lamar Matthew (York), Clerk, and Ronald Mattson (Baltimore, Stony Run), Recording Clerk, were at the table.

Minutes Y2002–36 and **37** from yesterday were read and APPROVED.

Jonathan M. Barton, General Minister for the Virginia Council of Churches, was introduced and brought greetings from the Council.

Y2002–48 Liz Hofmeister (Bethesda), Clerk of the Search Committee, brought to us three names for a second reading. Ted Green (Washington) is proposed as Assistant Treasurer for Baltimore Yearly Meeting, with his term beginning 1 First Month, 2003. Ruth Flower (Takoma Park) and Beverly Moore (Valley) are nominated for reappointment to the Yearly Meeting Nominating Committee, Class of 2005. All three names were APPROVED.

The name of Christine Williams (Williamsburg) for the Nominating Committee, class of 2005, was read for the first time. It will go to Interim Meeting for final approval.

Y2002–49 Miriam Green (Baltimore Homewood), Clerk of Ministry and Counsel, read the proposed statement titled “Spiritual State of Baltimore Yearly Meeting.” Additional material will be added and will be brought back to a later session.

The new “Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee,” formerly the Ministry and Counsel Committee and the Committee for the Nurture and Recognition of Ministry, will have Rosalind Zuses (Sandy Spring) and Miriam Green (Baltimore Homewood) as Co-Clerks.

Y2002–50 Bob Fetter (Roanoke) was called on for the First Reading of the Yearly Meeting Epistle. He began by reading a 1795 letter by Quaker Dolly Payne Madison, wife of James Madison, pointing out that war is a detriment to true liberty. “No nation could preserve its freedom in the midst of continual warfare.” This first draft was read with the understanding that there will be additional materials included after today’s business sessions and the evening Carey Lecture.

Y2002–51 David Greene (Baltimore, Homewood) read a proposed Minute on Restorative Justice. The proposed Minute was perfected and APPROVED, with the understanding that points that are a framework for restorative justice will be included with any cover letter.

MINUTE ON RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Our present retributive criminal justice system regards crime as a violation of the laws of the state requiring the administration of punishment to the offender. Restorative justice regards crime as a violation of people and relationships. It involves the victim, the offender, and the community in an effort to reach reconciliation and healing.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends minutes its recommendation for the use of restorative justice in place of retributive justice in our legal system.

We will send copies of this Minute to the governors and attorney generals of Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland.

Jack Fogarty (Sandy Spring) pointed out that Restorative Justice is a process, not a procedure.

Y2002–52 The Minutes for the afternoon session, through **Y2002–51** were read and approved.

Seventh Day Evening
3 Eighth Month 2002
7:30 p.m.

Y2002–53 As Friends gathered for the evening program we joined in a time of singing as we had also done on two previous evenings. Song leaders for these enjoyable times were Walt and Peggy Fry (West Branch), while Beth Massey (Sandy Spring) was the pianist.

Lamar Matthew (York) presided at the evening's session and introduced Ronald Mattson (Baltimore, Stony Run), the Executive Secretary of Baltimore Monthly Meeting of Friends, Stony Run, and the presenter of this year's annual Carey Memorial Lecture.

A main point of the evening's lecture dealt with the "hermeneutics of testimony," a belief that one validates his/her belief system by the degree to which one is willing to put oneself at risk. "I realized without any hesitation that I was loved by God. That I had experienced that love many times and in many ways. That it continued with me in different seasons and in a myriad of geographic locations. And with that knowledge it was possible to take risks that would have not otherwise been possible." Friends joined Ron in singing the old Gospel Hymn, "Safe am I, Safe am I, In the hollow of His Hand."

First Day Morning
4 Eighth Month 2002
9:00 a.m.

Y2002–54 As Friends gathered in worship this beautiful First Day, Lamar Matthew, Clerk (York) and Ronald Mattson, Recording Clerk (Baltimore, Stony Run) were at the table.

Y2002–55 As reported in **Y2002–30**, there was a request for a rewriting of the Minute. The following was read and approved:

“Lauri Perman (State College), a member of the BYM Triennial delegation, read a preliminary draft of a statement prepared by BYM delegates on some disturbing events that occurred before and during the Triennial in Nairobi, Kenya. (A final version of this statement is found in **Y2002–43**.) The statement reported that Retha McCutcheon, General Secretary of FUM, had not approved of Lamar Matthew, Clerk of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, to serve as a worship-sharing leader at the Triennial because he is in a same gender relationship. Lamar’s name had appeared on a list of worship-leaders approved by the Triennial Planning Committee so Retha’s action also raised the question about the authority of staff to revoke decisions approved by FUM committees. The statement further detailed a sequence of conversations that took place between Retha, Lamar, Kathy Wright (Sandy Spring) who was serving as a member of the Triennial Planning Committee and who was responsible for recruiting worship-sharing leaders, Frank Massey (Sandy Spring), the other BYM representatives to the FUM Board (Howard Fullerton and Rich Liversidge, both Sandy Spring) and the other BYM delegates to the Triennial, among others. The statement also reported the ways other members of the BYM delegation expressed their outrage at Retha’s decision and their strong support for Lamar Matthew (York). Finally, it was reported that, while in Nairobi, Retha McCutcheon had apologized and asked for Lamar’s forgiveness and that he responded that he had forgiven her even before departing for Kenya.”

Y2002–56 Ruth Flower (Takoma Park), Co-Clerk of the Nominating Committee, presented the second reading of the names brought forth on 3 Eighth Month 2002 at an earlier session. All were approved. The names and appointments are:

Advancement and Outreach, Class of 2005: Neil Froemming (Washington) (02)

Camping Program, Class of 2005: Patti Nesbitt (Hopewell Centre) (02)

Ministry and Pastoral Care, Class of 2005: Laura Nell Obaugh (Hopewell Centre) (02)

Program Committee, Class of 2005: Teresa Dutton (Baltimore, Homewood) (02)

Unity with Nature, Class of 2005: Barbara Williamson (Richmond) (02) and Peggy Dyson-Cobb (Maury River) (02)

Friends House Board, Class of 2005: Sam Stayton (Patapsco) (02)

Friends Committee on National Legislation, General Committee, Class of 2004: Maurice Boyd (Washington) (02)

Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas, Class of 2005: Andrea Seabrook (Baltimore, Homewood) [2002]

Liaison to Right Sharing of World Resources International, Maurice Boyd (Washington) 2002

She then read four names and the proposed assignments, all to be taken to Interim Meeting for approval:

Camping Program, Class of 2005: Anne Duncan (Maury River) (02)

Peace and Social Concerns, Class of 2005: Lella Smith (Goose Creek) (02)

Unity with Nature, Class of 2005: Sarah Kuzmanoff (Langley Hill) (02)

The resignation of Susan Rose (Sandy Spring) as the Peace Teams Representative was accepted.

Y2002-57 As David Hines (Richmond), Clerk of the Program Committee, began his report, Committee member Laurie Wilner (Langley Hill) held up a large color photo of Hannah Regal and Joy de Leon (Sandy Spring), the youngest and oldest participants in these Yearly Meeting Sessions.

David reported that we had 400 in attendance at this first gathering at James Madison University. The Program Committee recommends that we return to James Madison University, 27 Seventh Month to 3 Eighth Month 2003. Approved. Major thanks were offered to the Program Committee and to the Baltimore Yearly Meeting staff for their assistance during the entire year. Yearly Meeting sessions included arranging for daily worship-sharing sessions and Bible study sessions. The Program Committee also coordinated space for 26 committee meetings, 20 interest groups and 25 workshops.

It was suggested that each Monthly Meeting have an item in their annual budget to aid Friends who desire to attend Annual Session.

More than 30 people attended the retreat that began this week, and thanks were given to Claudia Wair (Langley Hill) for her fine leadership. Finally, Friends noted their appreciation of the barrier-free nature of this campus.

Y2002-58 An announcement was received from Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), telling us of a special day's program on Wednesday, September 11, in Washington, D.C. The theme will be on "Living the Friends' Peace Testimony in Challenging Times." On that day there will be a Meeting for Worship, Congressional visits after briefings, a panel discussion, and a final reception at FCNL headquarters. Approved asking Ministry and Pastoral Care to take under their care the planned Meeting for Worship at Friends Meeting of Washington.

Y2002–59 Riley Robinson (Washington) brought forth a “Call to Action” regarding Iraq, asking Monthly Meetings and individual Friends to “communicate as soon as possible with elected officials, with news media, and with others in order to support development of non-violent initiatives to bring lasting peace and justice to Iraq and the Middle East region.” The “Call” reads:

CALL TO ACTION REGARDING IRAQ

Friends gathered at the 2002 Baltimore Yearly Meeting annual session expressed concern throughout the week about abundant evidence of plans to stage a substantial escalation of military actions against Iraq. This concern was deepened after hearing from Dennis Halliday, former United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq and former United Nations Assistant Secretary General, and Peter Lems, Program Assistant for Iraq at the American Friends Service Committee.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting in session also heard these words from New York Yearly Meeting in its just-concluded session:

In these times New York Yearly Meeting Friends hear anew the call to pray and work for peace. We hear the murmur of a great people, ready to be gathered in peace. Grounded in shared worship, we experience fresh guidance and inward power to act. Friends in New York Yearly Meeting call one another to sustained practice of shared worship and action for peace.

August 2002 offers one month of urgent opportunity to awaken neighbors and Congressional representatives electioneering at home, before the United States is irreversibly committed to an invasion of Iraq.

We urge Monthly Meetings and individual Friends to become informed from reliable sources on the issues surrounding this escalation. These sources include Friends Committee on National Legislation, American Friends Service Committee, Quaker Council on European Affairs, and the Quaker United Nations Office. Web sites for these organizations and others may be found on the Internet at:

www.quaker.org

Friends may also find it helpful to seek news from credible sources from other nations; many well-known news media outlets are accessible on the Internet.

We ask that Monthly Meetings and individual Friends communicate as soon as possible with elected officials, with news media, and with others in order to support development of nonviolent initiatives to bring lasting peace and justice to Iraq and to the Middle East region.

Friends agreed to accept this document and to distributing it within Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Friends also expressed appreciation for having had this item brought forward.

Y2002–60 Lauri Perman (State College) presented a revised first paragraph to the letter brought forth from the Baltimore Yearly Meeting delegates to the FUM Triennial. [See **Y2002-43**]

Y2002–61 Betty Hutchinson (Sandy Spring), Clerk of Peace and Social Order Committee and Ralph Blankfield (Sandy Spring) presented the second reading of a proposed “Minute of Concern:”

Friends assembled in session during Baltimore Yearly Meeting 2002 expressed concern over the fact that the United States is rapidly abandoning many of its civil liberties.

Responding to terrorism, our beloved country is increasingly relying on police powers at home and military domination abroad. Fear is being used to erode the rule of law and the democratic process.

We urge all Friends to pray for Divine guidance as we stand for our Peace testimony and work to restore civil liberties.”

This minute was approved, with one Friend writing a note to the Recording Clerk asking to be recorded as standing aside.

Y2002–62 Young Friends Epistle: Hannah Mayer (Maury River) read the Epistle from this part of our family of Friends. The Epistle was accepted as a gift from Young Friends.

YOUNG FRIENDS EPISTLE

When Young Friends meet together, we strive to create a community based on caring, trust, and love. From experience, we’ve found that attenders who leave the gathering, use or are under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs, or engage in inappropriate sexual activity at the conference, jeopardize the Young Friends’ community and betray our trust, as well as the trust of parents, sponsors, older Friends, and also betray the trust of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. We hold all attenders in the light, but those who are unable to conform to these guidelines that Young Friends have set for themselves will be asked to meet with the Executive Committee, and appropriate action will be taken on a case-by-case basis.

In October, the Young Friends met at Goose Creek Meeting and enjoyed a peace testimony by Joe Volk, beautiful weather, a coffee shop, and an amazing game of wink. The main project of this conference was to reapprove the Young Friends’ gathering expectations through worship-sharing. Although the Young Friends were

successful, the process was referred to as a major “pain in the spine cushion.” The other big project, which was also a success, was to moon cars to raise money for homeless children.

Things got interesting in November at Adelphi meeting when Julia and Sandy created the Quaker Wrestling Federation (QWF). The Business side of the conference was well used when a minute was put out clarifying inappropriate sexual behavior. The most exciting part of the conference was when all the young friends reached total enlightenment and levitated for several hours.

In February, the Young Friends met at Stony Run and –oh, the horror- ate six pounds of Oreos in twenty-four hours. On a nicer note, Sam Legg, a Conscientious Objector during World War II, led a thought-provoking workshop on the starvation program. The workshop started some thinking on possessions –no one knows how- and, deciding we had too many, the Young Friends donated the entire contents of the meeting to Good Will.

On the bus trip, Maury River Meeting, the Young Friends began the long journey of nominating for our Executive Committee. Fortunately, there were two and a half buttsloads of drumming. The music helped the Young Friends have enough energy to take over the Federal Government for a day using consensus.

In June, us Hippies converged at the beautiful Sandy Spring meeting and made good vibrations with crystal bowls. Many adventurous souls slept with the vitally challenged. Also, in a fit of genius, Jimmy and Geo invented time travel.

This year, we thoroughly enjoyed having our own lounge at the Baltimore Yearly Meeting session. We had a thought-provoking workshop and discussion on Bible study, as well as a beautiful Sand Mandala and a worship sharing on what the Young Friends community means to us. We discussed in depth the recent events concerning Friends United Meeting, and reaffirmed our support of lesbians, gays, and same-gender unions. After studying the campus geese, we decided to join them outside in the rain to eat worms.

Please understand we are not making fun of our Testimony of Truthfulness. Rather we are celebrating the enjoyment we had at this Yearly Meeting playing the game two truths and a lie. We do feel, however, that the Young Friends community is so amazing that sometime in the future all these things could come to pass.

Y2002–63 Epistle from Baltimore Yearly Meeting. Bob Fetter (Roanoke), Clerk of the Ad Hoc Epistle Committee, presented the second reading of the Epistle. It was approved and the Clerk expressed the feeling of the assembled Friends: “The Epistle is beautiful.”

To Friends Everywhere:

*Sing and rejoice you Children of the Day and of the Light.
For the Lord is at work in this thick night of darkness that can be felt.*

George Fox, 1663 (letter 227)

Friends gathered on the campus of James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, July 29-August 4, 2002 for the 331st Annual Session of Baltimore Yearly Meeting. In our opening retreat, ably led by Claudia Wair, we considered what it means today to be Children of the Light and what Friends bring to the world. We found joy in blessed community, buoyed by the vibrant presence of younger Friends, including 12 children in the nursery program. The vitality and growth of our Yearly Meeting was reflected in an eclectic program of workshops, interest groups, and worship sharing. A campus accessible for all Friends aided participation in these activities.

Our joy in being together has been tempered by confusion and anxiety as we question how we can respond as Friends in an increasingly violent world. We are grateful to York Monthly Meeting, which last year invited Monthly Meetings to reexamine the peace testimony. Meetings which responded found this work meaningful, but difficult, especially in light of the violent attacks directed against our country. Friends are in the process of discerning how to respond to our nation's reliance on military action. Denis Halliday, Irish Friend and former United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq, and Peter Lems, Program Assistant for Iraq at the American Friends Service Committee, urged that Friends act to forestall escalation of war in that country, which has been subjected to comprehensive sanctions, bombing, and the demonizing of Saddam Hussein. Friends brought forth a call to action regarding Iraq, urging us as Monthly Meetings and as individual Friends to inform ourselves on steps we might take. We continue prayerful consideration of our Peace Testimony, which we need to apply to all parts of our lives.

In meetings for business, Friends approved minutes opposing reinstatement of military conscription, supporting the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund, supporting restorative justice as an alternative to retributive justice, and expressing concern about the dilution of civil liberties in the name of the war against terrorism.

In his opening address, Ron Kraybill (Associate Professor in Eastern Mennonite University's Conflict Transformation Program), speaking out of the silence, felt moved to bring words of hope. Hope is our foundation in the midst of apparent despair and difficulty. Friends resonated with his description of the trauma, spanning generations, of modern warfare, in which 90% of the casualties are now civilian. Traumatized societies and individuals must have time and room to heal, in order to move forward with peacemaking.

A major obstacle peace building organizations face can be our inability to resolve conflicts among ourselves. We struggled with a forthright response to a hurtful action which occurred during the preparations for the Friends United Meeting Triennial. Longstanding differences regarding sexual orientation and leadership roles precipitated this conflict. This provides an opening for renewed communication. Despite these difficulties, our representatives conveyed the rich, spirit-filled experience and warm hospitality they found among Friends in Kenya.

Ours is a Yearly Meeting which often has been prodded by younger Friends. Our camping programs are an upward spiral of energy and creativity and are one of our most successful outreach programs. Campers taught us that fun together is the first step, and joy together the second, and from this joy can flow a depth in which conflicts may be lovingly embraced. In our Junior Yearly Meeting, a dedicated band of volunteers facilitated programs for our youth—morning, afternoon, and evening. Our intergenerational program this year found Friends working together to prepare hygiene and school packets for the American Friends Service Committee to send to Friends in Ramallah. A variety of imaginative activities brought Friends of all ages together with much laughter. Friends devoured two large cakes commemorating the 350th anniversary of Fox’s vision of a great people to be gathered. Accompanied by drumming, Friends constructed a huge, free-form sand painting.

Mary Snyder, Friend from South Dakota, attended as a consultant to the Religious Education Committee. She provided workshops and a ministry of encouragement to our Religious Education Committee and our Yearly Meeting. Patricia Kutzner’s embraced ministry among the people of the Torreon/Starlake Chapter of the Navajo Nation continues to move Friends as she patiently works with the local community to empower initiatives in one of the most economically disadvantaged parts of the country.

In the Carey Memorial Lecture, Ron Mattson shared his faith journey and how an understanding of the liberating nature of God’s love frees us to live faithfully. “I realized without any hesitation that I was loved by God. That I had experienced that love many times and in many ways. That it continued with me in different seasons and in myriad geographic locations. And with that knowledge it was possible to take risks that would have not otherwise been possible.” Friends joined Ron is singing the old Gospel Hymn, “Safe am I, Safe am I, In the hollow of His Hand.”

Y2002–64 Junior Young Friends Epistle. Sean Wilner (Langley Hill), Clerk of Junior Young Friends, read their Epistle to the Yearly Meeting session. It was accepted with thanks.

JUNIOR YOUNG FRIENDS EPISTLE

In the Junior Yearly Meeting program this year we all learned a lot. We learned the frustration of making dream catchers and the joy of caring and wood burning.

Cindy Frazier led us in an enriching discussion of Quaker testimonies. We made bracelets to remind us of the five major testimonies: community, harmony, equality, simplicity, and service.

Allen Schintzius led us in a workshop centered around “Mind Journeys,” and whether or not life is a dream. Jim Lehman taught us the importance of Meeting for Worship. Mark Brabson showed us how to make stoves and allowed us to use his tools.

Representatives from H.I.P.P. (Help Increase the Peace Project) of the American Friends Service Committee helped us learn to work together as a group, and to work on our conflict resolution skills. We took a field trip to a golf course and had hands-on experience in how to fill in divits. Other activities included swimming at the community pool, ping pong, tie-dyeing and an over-night. At our over-night we played games, listened to music, and learned that it is possible to fit 54 goldfish [crackers] into your mouth.

We’d like to thank Linda Coates for working so hard all year to set up our program. Thanks to all the adults: Ron, Mark, Bill, Mary, and Audrey (who played with us until 2 a.m.). Thanks to Kiera for trying to stay with us.

The JYF Program this year has been a good experience for everyone, and we look forward to the year’s upcoming events.

S/ Sean Wilner, Clerk of Junior Young Friends

Y2002–65 Announcements:

Friends Committee on Unity with Nature, represented by Stan Becker (Baltimore, Homewood) has provided five pamphlets that can be used for discussions in local Friends Meetings.

The Friends General Conference “Gathering” will be in Johnston, Pennsylvania, next summer. Calls for workshop presentations need to be received by FGC by the end of Ninth Month this year.

Dates for Baltimore Yearly Meeting Interim Meeting have been set: 26 Tenth Month at Baltimore Monthly Meeting, Homewood; 29th of Third Month, 2003, at Langley Hill; and 21st of Sixth Month, 2003, at Annapolis.

Y2002–66 Minutes 53 through **65** were read and corrected.

Y2002–67 Lamar Matthew (York), Clerk of the Yearly Meeting, read his Closing Minute.

“Friends, we met these past days to worship and seek God’s will. Abundant love, God’s holy manna, was showered all around us to nourish us as we labored each day. We humbly sought God’s care and guidance and were richly rewarded. In loving fellowship we wrestled with concerns that pushed us beyond our human limits to a place where only Divine leading of the spirit could and did deliver us. With feeble words we struggled to express what our hearts so much wished to say. We came to understand that if we want to speak of peace to the world we must first work at love and unity among ourselves. Well done, ye Children of the Day and of the Light. Now sing and rejoice as you travel home to F/friends and family ‘til we meet again as God directs.

Sincerely,

Lamar Matthew, Clerk

Ronald Mattson, Recording Clerk