

Yearly Meeting Gathering April 2001: Numbered Minutes

01YM01: SEYM will reestablish and fund the Religious Education Committee.

01YM02: The YM requests that the nominating committee begin the process of designating an SEYM web site committee, which will oversee, support and update the SEYM web site.

01YM03: SEYM approves an increase to the secretary's position to 3/4 time with a salary increase to a total of \$23,250 plus appropriate payroll taxes. This will be a pilot project wherein the secretary will have a year to update current publications and to reinstate the SEYM newsletter. The funds will come from an increase in individual contributions. If there is a shortfall, the deficit will be met by accumulated savings.

01YM04: SEYM approves the establishment of a Havana Quaker Peace Mission. SEYM will allocate a grant of \$1200 per year for a period of three years to the Cuban Quaker Project for said purpose.

01YM05: The YM approves the SEYM Faith and Practice Section on Dying, Death and Bereavement as modified by the YM. The YM offers its heartfelt thanks to the Faith and Practice Committee for its work.

01YM06: The Yearly Meeting approves a change in the Faith and Practice process so that each section requires one approval by the Yearly Meeting instead of two approvals.

01YM07: The YM approves the formal establishment of the Cuban Quaker Project as a function of SEYM, to support Quakers in Cuba, with standing committee structure and line item funding support.

01YM08: The YM approves the proposed budget for 2001- 2002 including the changes to support an increase in the secretary's position.

01YM09: The YM approves the Faith and Practice section on Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business with one change.

01YM10: SEYM appreciates and acknowledges all of the work and effort that Halifax Friends and YM Friends have dedicated to the issue of Halifax's relationship with and status within the Yearly Meeting. We regret any misunderstandings and hurt feelings that have come out of that process. SEYM reiterates that monthly meeting status must come through the Yearly Meeting clearness process and that individual membership in the Religious Society of Friends comes through membership in a monthly meeting affiliated with a Yearly Meeting or a wider Friends' body. We encourage and invite Halifax Friends to continue their participation in and fellowship with the Yearly Meeting and, as way opens, to follow their leadings with regard to pursuing YM affiliation. In addition, the SEYM secretary is directed to list Halifax as Halifax Friends Group unaffiliated.

01YM11: SEYM approves the reactivation of the Youth Committee.

01YM12: SEYM approves the Nominating Committee report.

01YM13: SEYM names Fern Louise Mayo and Devender Sellars as Yearly Meeting representatives to Cuba Yearly Meeting's Family and Young Friends Camp to be held in Gibara, Cuba in August, 2001. SEYM Cuban Quaker Project committee is authorized to name two additional representatives, to be determined in the near future, on behalf of SEYM. Some of the expenses for this trip will be covered by the Yearly Meeting. The details of the funding will be worked out by the Secretary, the Treasurer and clerk of Finance Committee.

01YM14: SEYM names Eduardo and Clara Diaz as Yearly Meeting representative to Cuba Yearly Meeting sessions to be held February 2002 in Gibara, Cuba.

01YM15: SEYM thanks Doris Emerson for stepping in for yet another term as Finance Committee Clerk. We appreciate her unflappable demeanor and wise, experienced guidance during the budget process.

01YM16: SEYM thanks Annie McPherson for her years of service as executive secretary. She accomplished much in a very cheerful and low-key way, including helping the late Liz Jensen straighten out Yearly Meeting finances and persistently nudging the Clerk of SEYM to get on line so that he could get e-mail.

01YM17: SEYM remembers Liz Jensen for her loving and devoted service as Treasurer. We have included a longer remembrance of Liz earlier in the program. Wherever you are, Liz - and likely your spirit has been right here with us guiding us - we thank you.

01YM18: Friends of SEYM express our gratitude, joy and genuine appreciation for Stephen Angell's participation in and leadership of our Yearly Meeting. Steve has been clerk, mentor, present listener, purveyor of good humor, a carrier of wisdom, a rock and a source of light. We will deeply miss his presence. We wrap him in love and send him forth to begin the wonderful adventure of teaching Quakerism at Earlham School of Religion. We thank you, Steve, for sharing your abundant and tender spirit with us here.

01YM19: On April 7, 2001 in Zimbabwe, Africa a shining light flickered off. Winston Burge, AFSC SERO business manager and MIS director was killed in an automobile accident. His title does not adequately reflect what Winston actually did for SERO. His title does not say that he was a man who filled you with laughter and light. It does not say that he was patient, gracious and empathetic. It does not say though sometimes frustrated with AFSC that he was deeply committed to the people and the work. And it does not say that Winston always took the time to speak, listen and acknowledge your presence regardless of his hectic, demanding schedule. Winston was a Quaker in his heart, his actions, his beliefs - he did indeed walk the walk. His physical presence will be missed but he left us with heart memories that will grace our lives forever. Peace, light and joy, Winston Burge.