

North Carolina Yearly Meeting  
of the  
Religious Society of Friends  
320<sup>th</sup> Annual Session

Concluding Minute

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under Heaven.

The North Carolina Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met the fourth through the sixth days of the eighth month, in the year of our Lord and Savior 2017, in the Truth and Spirit of Jesus Christ, and for the 320<sup>th</sup> consecutive annual gathering of Friends for worship, business, and fellowship.

As we close our Annual Session, we are faithfully mindful of the time that came for us to be born, and that from the cartways and villages of the English Midlands in the 1640s to the arrival of William Edmundson and George Fox in our colony in 1672, a movement flourished and grew that sustained us over the centuries.

We have had our times to plant and our times to sow, and as we moved westward from our humble beginnings in Perquimans and Pasquotank counties we built farms, we raised families, we built meetinghouses and schools, we established businesses, and we created communities where once there was mainly wilderness.

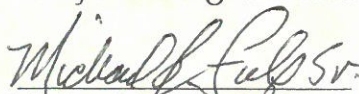
We have prospered in times of peace and suffered in times of war, including a war with our Crown, a bloody and brutal war with our fellow countrymen, wars that tested the stability of world order, and wars that challenged our core beliefs as followers of Christ.

For 345 years our seasons have changed in the slow but regular procession of the planting and reaping of harvests, the gathering of stones that built towns and cities, and the laughing and weeping that followed the births and deaths of loved ones as generations have passed unto generations.

We depart this day in one Spirit but as two groups, each for different forms of rebirth and renewal, as we follow separate futures connected by a common past. It is a time to embrace and a time to love. We depart in faith that our unknown futures are bright, that we shall gather in common fellowship as often as Providence allows, and that our actions today remain true to the lives of our forebears who brought us thus far in Christ's journey.

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under Heaven.

In Faithful Witness, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of the Eighth Month, 2017.

  
Michael J. Fulp, Sr., Clerk