



May 10, 2016

Dear Pastors, Monthly Meeting Clerks and Ministry and Counsel Clerks,

The Task Group has worked with the concerns expressed by Representative Body in session third month, fifth day, 2016 and the discussion that surrounded those concerns. We ourselves spent several hours in meeting, discerning a way forward.

As our report indicates, the Yearly Meeting disunity continues, but there is much that has been accomplished by Representative Body during the past 12 to 15 months. Please share the attached report with your Monthly Meeting and send your representative to Representative Body with any comments or concerns. Representative Body will be in session at Forbush Friends Meeting on Saturday June 4th. We realize there is not a lot of time to consider this, but we hope you will do so in a regular Monthly Meeting session or a called one.

If there are questions regarding this report, feel free to email or call me as chair of the Task Group – jcritter@yadtel.net or 704-539-5435.

Thank you in advance for making certain your Monthly Meeting has representation at the June Representative Body.

In Christ's Love,

Judy C Ritter, Clerk
Yearly Meeting Task Group

Final Task Group Report to Representative Body
June 4, 2016

In continuing to do the work Representative Body has given to the Task Group, we did take the feedback to our report from Representative Body on March 5, 2016 and continued our work.

Although the current disunity in the Yearly Meeting has been going on for two years, a large amount of work has been accomplished by Representative Body in sessions over the past year. The Task Group, after much discussion, discerned the way to continue to go forward is to build on those things that have been approved recently and what is already Friends' way of handling difficulties.

The Task Group felt, to avoid confusion, we would review those things that have been approved and are being drafted into Faith and Practice by the Faith and Practice Revision Committee.

- In March Representative Body of 2015, it was approved that, "All meetings shall reaffirm NCYM Faith and Practice which directs us to the Holy Bible and includes documents prepared with much care and prayerful guidance, such as the Richmond Declaration of Faith, which present our core spiritual beliefs in a clear, concise manner. Affirmation of Faith and Practice as our guide does not establish a creed." It was again approved in the March 2016 Representative Body that the Body reaffirms Faith and Practice that spells out our faith and aids us as we put our faith into practice. Included on page 27 of our Faith and Practice is item 3. Meaning of Salvation – "Because of the universally recognized fact of sin, there is need for repentance and salvation which bring deliverance from sin and the possession of spiritual life. This comes through a personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, who through His love and sacrifice draws men to Him. ..."
- Financial responsibility to NCYM has been approved as follows: "As a Yearly Meeting that serves as a hub for communication between all meetings, provides networking and helps the membership to enable our work, we have an administrative office and staff. We also have Trust Funds which benefit all and must be administered. We, together, have moved forward and hired a superintendent who will be working for all meetings in North Carolina Yearly Meeting. We have facilities at four or more locations to promote our work for the Kingdom of God. We have programs to teach, guide and direct the young in our fellowship and other programs to enrich and encourage the not so young. In order to maintain such assets for all and receive support from a central office, all Meetings are expected to fully pay their Askings, which have been formulated in a fashion to be equitable. Those Meetings who feel compelled not to contribute to the shared obligation, cannot expect to reap the benefits of the shared fellowship. Monthly Meetings which are unable to meet this expectation should immediately notify the Yearly Meeting and include an explanation of why. Furthermore, if NCYM Representative Body determines that a monthly meeting is purposefully not supporting NCYM (or an individual does not follow through with financial obligations) that monthly meeting (or individual) will be penalized as follows: They shall not serve as a representative to Representative Body, in a leadership role, or on any committee, and shall pay non-member full-prices to participate in all NCYM sponsored activities."

The Yearly Meeting has had both a Mission Statement and a Vision Statement for years now. It was approved that these are part of what makes us North Carolina Yearly Meeting.

- Vision Statement
We are a faithful, passionate, growing community of Christ-followers, drawn together by God's love and truth as continually revealed through the Saving Grace and the Light of Jesus Christ and the Holy Scripture. As Quakers, we seek God's leading, serve God's purpose, and go as God's people into the world to love, reconcile, and transform through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Approved in NCYM Annual Session 2010)
- Mission Statement
North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Friends seeks through the power of the Holy Spirit to equip and energize our meetings in their witness to the love, message and power of the living Christ encouraging Friends to translate our faith into practice. (Approved in NCYM Annual Session 1999.)
- The Executive Committee of NCYM recommended to Representative Body in November 2015 to recreate the process existent in the 1967 edition of the Faith and Practice and titled "Jurisdiction" therein:
"The Yearly Meeting has power to decide all questions of administration, to counsel, admonish, or discipline its subordinate Meetings, to institute measures and provide means for the promotion of truth and righteousness, and to inaugurate and carry on departments of religious and philanthropic work." (Faith and Practice, 1967 Ed., p.83, Jurisdiction)
The Body approved the reinsertion into Faith and Practice of the "Jurisdiction" portion of the Yearly Meeting responsibilities as left out of the next edition (1970) without approval.

In conclusion, as this has been implemented by the NCYM Ministry and Counsel and their work is ongoing, the Monthly Meetings of the Yearly Meeting are to be reminded that there is a way to deal with difficulties for future situations. In Faith and Practice, Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Counsel, section on Duties, it states: "The Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Counsel shall carefully consider subjects which have reference to spiritual needs and may report its judgment to the Yearly Meeting for action."

Monthly Meeting's Ministry and Counsel can use this process and take to Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel those situations that may arise with another Monthly Meeting for reconciliation. The Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel shall attempt to restore fellowship between the Monthly Meetings, adhering to the instruction to "gently counsel" those "whose behavior, values, or attitudes are contrary to the Christian faith or out of unity with Friends' principles," and shall engage others as they determine necessary to achieve reconciliation. If reconciliation cannot be achieved, a recommendation can be brought to Representative Body for its consideration.