

July 28 – evening

330th Annual Sessions-Summer
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
DeSales University, Center Valley, PA
Fourth Day Afternoon & Evening Sessions
July 28, 2010

1. The 2010 Summer Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends convened Fourth Day afternoon, July 28, 2010, at 3:00 p.m. at DeSales University in Center Valley, PA. The announced theme of both of our 2010 Sessions is “We Make the Road by Walking.” We began with opening worship. Following worship, we adjourned, agreeing to meet again at 7:00 p.m.

The Clerk is Thomas Swain (Middletown MM, Concord Quarter). The Alternate Clerks are Dana Kester-McCabe (Wicomico River MM) and Jada Jackson (Trenton MM and Burlington Worship Group). Recording Clerk is Jane Keller (Pennsdale MM). At the appointed hour, 7:00 p.m., the body settled into silent worship.

2. The Clerk welcomed us and introduced Melinda Wenner-Bradley (West Chester MM) who guided us through an “extravaganza” experience of singing and games. Christie Duncan-Tessmer (Chestnut Hill MM) led us through a discernment process as it is explained to the children. We were led in a worship sharing exercise of thoughts of our heart in response to queries. Therese Miller (Lewisburg MM) led the children out after offering a song. Shane Claiborne spoke with us about how important it is to share and how we can learn how to share well. The children shared their minutes, the adults shared theirs. The minutes were approved and we adjourned, planning to meet Thursday morning, 8:30 a.m. for worship, 9:30 a.m. for business.

July 29 – morning

The 2010 Summer Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends convened Fifth Day morning, July 29, 2010, at 8:30 a.m. at DeSales University in Center Valley, PA. The announced theme of both of our 2010 Sessions is “We Make the Road by Walking.” Friends settled into Meeting for Worship with an intent for Business.

The Clerk is Thomas Swain (Middletown MM, Concord Quarter). The Alternate Clerks are Dana Kester-McCabe (Wicomico River MM) and Jada Jackson (Trenton MM and Burlington Worship Group). Recording Clerk is Jane Keller (Pennsdale MM).

1. The Clerk, Thomas Swain (Middletown MM, Concord Quarter) introduced himself and asked others at the facing table to do the same. Alternate Clerks are Dana Kester McCabe (Wicomico River MM) and Jada Jackson (Trenton MM and Burlington Worship Group). Recording Clerks are Rich Ailes (Middletown MM, Concord Quarter) and Jim Herr (Lancaster MM). Also at the table were Richard Morse (Harrisburg MM) co-clerk of General Services Standing Committee; TylaAnn Burger (Green Street MM) Yearly Meeting Treasurer; Jack Mahon (Woodstown MM) Clerk of Financial Stewardship Committee; Suzanne Day (Westfield MM) Clerk of Nominating Committee; and Arthur Larrabee (Central Philadelphia MM) General Secretary. Four elders were introduced in the body of the Meeting: Dana Houghton (Woodstown MM), Mario Cavallini (Mickleton MM), Christopher Nicholson, (Germantown MM), and Dorothy Reichardt (Media MM).

Alternate Clerk Jada Jackson asked those attending from other Yearly Meetings to introduce themselves. Friends welcomed Noah Baker Merrill (Putney MM, New England Yearly Meeting); Rob Pierson (Albuquerque MM, Intermountain Yearly Meeting); Lauri Perman (State College MM, Baltimore Yearly Meeting); Brenda Beadenkopf (Concord MM and Penn Friends Community Church, Indiana Yearly Meeting); and Wilhelm Dahllof (Sweden Yearly Meeting). After introductions, Dana Kester-McCabe read to us Wilhelm Dahllof’s letter of introduction from Sweden Yearly Meeting, signed by Clerk Sue Gloder Frykman.

The Clerk called for the reading of epistles from other yearly meetings. Tom Hoopes (Valley MM) read excerpts from Intermountain Yearly Meeting’s 2010 gathering in New Mexico. A dominant theme was what service Friends are called to do. Two critical minutes were approved, one calling for immediate troop withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan (Minute on the War in Afghanistan appended to these minutes), the other dealing with immigration reform.

2. Alternate Clerk Jada Jackson read out the agenda for the morning. She then asked those gathered to consider service on this gathering’s Epistle Committee. Jonathan Snipes (Fallsington MM) rose to offer his service. Other members can contact Jonathan if they wish to serve on this committee.

3. Richard Morse (Harrisburg MM) Clerk of General Services Standing Committee presented the committee's epistle (Epistle from the General Services Standing Committee appended to these minutes). In general, the working groups under the care of the committee have grown and prospered more than in the past. Richard asked for help from those present to find members to work on the following committees: the General Services Standing Committee, Sessions Planning Working Group, Legacy Granting Group, Financial Oversight Working Group, Development Services Working Group and Burlington Meetinghouse Working Group.

4. Suzanne Day, Clerk of Nominating Committee, presented the slate of nominees for service to the Yearly Meeting. Before the presentation Suzanne asked us to go back to our Quarters and encourage them to fully staff their representative positions on the PYM Nominating Committee. Members who wish to serve on Yearly Meeting committees and working groups can notify their Quarter's representative, who can bring their name forward within the nominating process in their Quarterly Meetings.

A list of 45 Friends was presented for approval as Yearly Meeting Clerks, Alternate Clerks, Recording Clerks, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Standing Committee members, and representatives to affiliated and external organizations. (List attached) All nominees brought forward were approved. This approval included the officers for the Yearly Meeting: Thomas Swain (Middletown MM [Concord Quarter]); John Ellsworth (Gwynedd MM); Jada Jackson (Trenton MM); Sallie Jones (Birmingham MM); and Dana Kester McCaber (Wicomico River MM). TylaAnn Burger (Green Street MM) was approved for Treasurer. (Suzanne reminded us that appointments also come forward for approval at Interim Meeting throughout the year). Friends accepted the resignation of Erik Pedersen (Schuylkill MM, Caln Quarter) from the Peace and Concerns Standing Committee 2011 panel. The Clerk notified the meeting that Mark Myers (London Grove MM) has concluded his service as PYM Alternate Clerk. Friends approved minuting their appreciation for Mark's service.

5. Arthur Larrabee (Central Philadelphia MM), General Secretary of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting presented his report to those gathered. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting staff needs to hear our support for their hard work which makes these sessions wonderful and the functioning of our Yearly Meeting possible. Arthur deeply appreciates their efforts.

Arthur's vision is that all of us live into an expectation of relevance, coherence and vitality. Two years ago he faced the question: What has the Yearly Meeting done for us lately and why should we support it? The "us" versus "them" mentality took him by surprise. He proceeded to take this and tried to work to get Friends to see that "them" is "us". The challenge has always been to get Monthly Meeting members to feel so attached to our wider Yearly Meeting that they would never think to ask this question. It has been a concern in our Yearly Meeting community going back decades.

In response to this Arthur and the staff and standing committee clerks have worked for several months to reorganize staff structure to better enable more staff integration with our meeting communities. The new structure has three new staff positions being formed, if the budget to be presented later this morning is approved. The positions are Director of Spiritual Life and Community Life, Director of Witness and Outreach, and Director of Meeting Relations. The first two positions directly map to the four priorities approved by our Yearly Meeting last year: spiritual growth and renewal; caring for our community; witnessing our faith; and making ourselves known. The Director of Meeting Relations underpins the whole structure with a direct focus on connecting the Monthly Meeting and Quarterly Meeting communities with the other parts of the new staff structure. All Quarterly Meeting Coordinators will communicate with the director. For those seven Quarterly Meetings that have no coordinator, which represents 51 Meetings, a specific PYM staff person will be paired with a Meeting, one staff person for 3 Meetings. In the end, all Meetings in the Yearly Meeting will receive regular visits from a Yearly Meeting or Quarterly Meeting staff person.

Arthur challenged us to review and accept this proposal as we consider our budget in next session. Let us see this as a way to create a vital connectedness among all our Yearly Meeting community.

The Clerk then called for a brief break in sessions. After a time the Clerk brought Friends back into worship. He explained the special nature of the epistle committee process to those attending.

6. TylaAnn Burger, Treasurer of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, rose to present an analysis of the Yearly Meeting finances. The figures in her report are preliminary as the staff started the process of closing the Yearly Meeting fiscal year on June 30, 2010. (Treasurer's Report to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting 2010 appended to these minutes)

The decline in the financial status of the Yearly Meeting has lessened somewhat over the last year. Investment assets are up, recovering some of the losses of the last two years in addition to incorporation of the Greenleaf Fund into the investment portfolio. Though market conditions have improved, our investment income from Fiduciary will remain low due to a combination of the reduced values and Fiduciary's decision to reduce the distribution by 1% over 4 years. The Annual Fund did not make its target even though the target was smaller than last year. However the covenant contributions have been slightly higher. Hard work on the part of our administrative staff has resulted in reduced expenses. The preliminary General Fund deficit is about \$130,000, a smaller deficit than the last two years but not a good thing given the state of our reserves which now only allow for 3 months of operating expenses, a bare minimum by non-profit accounting standards.

Over the past three years our Annual Fund and covenant income has grown by only .23%. The cost of living for our area in that time has risen 6.5%. Staff COLA increases have only been 5.5%. Below is a quote directly from the Treasurer's report:

“The level of our program costs in our budgets remains unsustainable. Fortunately due to some gifts in the past we have the resources to explore our options. This allows us a very few years to consider our calling and support for that work. At the end of those years we must have reached a new understanding of what support there is for how much ongoing work. If we don’t make those decisions with discernment, the finances will do it for us.”

For a more detailed analysis of the FY 2010 budget please request a copy of the Treasurer’s report from Yearly Meeting offices. The Clerk appreciated the General Secretary’s works and his remarks.

7. Jack Mahon, Clerk of Financial Stewardship, continued with an explanation of how the staff restructuring plan developed. Earlier this year Standing Committee Clerks met in an ad hoc session to figure out how to close a \$600,000 gap in the projected budget for FY 2011. It was out of this process that the idea for a staff structure redesign evolved to be supported from unrestricted fund investment income. The structure is designed to encourage more Monthly Meeting participation in the Yearly Meeting with the hope that an increase in contributions will follow. (FY 2011 Proposed Budget by Type of Income and Expense, PYM Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 – Summary, The Format of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budget, Footnotes for the Proposed Fiscal Year 2011 Budget, PYM Organizational Chart, PYM Priorities, PYM Sources of Income FY 2010-2011 appended to these minutes)

The Clerk asked for questions.

Are we certain about the projections for contributions in 2011? A 6% decrease in contributions from covenants and an actual 38% projected increase for the Annual Fund?

It is felt that changes in staff responsibilities, allowing for 2 people to work in the Development office, doubling staff capacity over what exists now, should result in the increased contributions for the Annual Fund.

What will happen with the relationship between Quarterly Meeting staff and their local oversight groups with these staff reporting to a new Director of Meeting Relations?

There is already a Yearly Meeting staff relationship now with Quarter staff that works. This new arrangement will not disrupt local oversight control; only make the Yearly Meeting part of it stronger.

Some suggestions were made for helping involve more members in the life of the Yearly Meeting. Those present need to urge local members to come to Yearly Meeting sessions. Perhaps we should allow the PYM Nominating Committee to nominate members to PYM Working Groups. Let’s encourage automatic monthly contributions. We need to dig deep to find that extra little bit of support every month that will help our Yearly Meeting.

The clerk encouraged us to continue this dialog over the next 24 hours, noting easiness in the room with this discernment that he hopes will carry into our approval session tomorrow.

8. Minutes were read. TylaAnn Burger will assist the recording clerk in improving the section on budget analysis. Some other small amendments were made and the minutes were approved. Our children joined us for closing worship. The meeting was adjourned, planning to meet again Fifth Day evening at 7:00 p.m.

July 29 – evening

The 2010 Summer Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends convened Fifth Day evening, July 29, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. at DeSales University in Center Valley, PA. The announced theme of both of our 2010 Sessions is “We Make the Road by Walking.” Friends settled into Meeting for Worship with an intent for Business.

1. The Clerk, Thomas Swain (Middletown MM, Concord Quarter) introduced himself and asked others at the clerk’s table to do the same. Alternate Clerks are Dana Kester-McCabe (Wicomico River MM) and John Ellsworth (Gwynedd MM). Recording Clerks are Jane Keller (Pennsdale MM) and Jim Herr (Lancaster MM). Also at the table were and Arthur Larrabee (Central Philadelphia MM) General Secretary, Stephen Loughin (Old Haverford MM) from the PYM War Tax Refusal Committee (ad hoc). Our speech to text was provided by Becky Tallarico.

Clerk introduced 5 PYM elders in attendance with us this evening. Visitors included Tesla DuBois and Ravahn Samati, Pacific YM, and Wilhelm Dahlloff of Sweden YM.

Dana Houghton (Woodstown MM, attending Kendal MM) read an epistle from Great Plains YM, an extremely varied Meeting.

2. The epistle committee could consist of Mario Cavillini (Mickleton MM), Suzanne Day (Westfield MM), Jonathan Snipes (Fallsington MM), and Jim Collins (Fallsington MM). Meeting approved.

3. We were provided highlights of Interim Meeting. Sallie Jones (Birmingham MM) said she has been most impressed with the changes in governance; such as having one clerk for both Interim Meeting and annual sessions, and for the recognition of elders. She has also been impressed by the extensive consideration of having two times of annual sessions, with no clear decision made. Bryn Hammarstrom, Jr. (Wellsboro MM) considered the purpose of Interim Meeting, both as a body for decision making and a tie to the Monthly Meetings. Lane Taylor (Plumstead MM) said the spirit is quite present and flows through those at Interim Meeting. She loves being part of the group. In the process of establishing elders, she felt the group has not overcome fear of possible human frailty to embrace the spirit, and needs to. Maceo Davis (Kennett MM) said he was surprised to be asked to make comments—and not be told what to say. As a member of Interim Meeting for more than five years, he has found his service increasingly purposeful, energizing, and transparent. He has been most impressed that Interim is seeking answers from Monthly Meetings. Christopher Lucca (Yardley MM), Bucks Quarter Clerk, has also been going to Interim Meeting for five years and has found it the most profound part of his life. He feels he has learned an enormous amount about clerking, and he has found his ability to see that of God in

others through his entire life greatly strengthened. The Clerk thanked these five representatives from Interim Meeting for sharing their perspectives on its highlights.

3. War Tax Refusal Policy. The Clerk told us we need to answer the question of whether or not to support the rights of individuals to obey their conscientious objection to paying federal taxes for war, and whether we are willing to pay the price. Stephen Loughin (Old Haverford MM), clerk of the Ad Hoc Committee on War Tax Policy, opened our discussion with a brief outline of Quaker history of conscientious objection to war. He told us that having a written policy on this subject of tax resistance, as we have had since 1988, greatly reduces the legal risk of Yearly Meeting leadership. (Policy on Military Tax Refusal by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Employees and on IRS Levies and other Collection Efforts appended to these minutes) It involves putting a portion of the resisting employee's taxes in an escrow account, to which, through legal action, the IRS can eventually gain access. Lola Georg, associate secretary for business and finance, gave us a brief rundown of the \$30,000 cost to the Yearly Meeting, which is mostly a cost of having our staff do payroll taxes instead of having our payroll service company do this. (Summary on expenses related to the Policy on Military Tax Refusal appended to these minutes) The service company, which would electronically submit the taxes, refuses to separate out the taxes of only one individual—it's either all the employees, or none. Stephen brought us back to the question of our spiritual leading to support war tax refusers as reflected in the new policy. We settled into a period of open worship. Peter Goldberger, a lawyer who has given enormous time pro-bono for the development of this new policy, told us there are not a great many changes from our policy of 1988. Mostly, wording has been changed to reflect our religious principal as basis for this policy. However, it also permits only resisting the portion of tax used for war, and it insists Yearly Meeting obey the law for the IRS W4 forms. And the new policy recognizes contemporary methods of tax collection. After a period of worship, there was great support for this new policy, with notice that in doing so, we support individuals with a conscientious objection to paying taxes for war. Some voices were raised in opposition to the cost involved, but the individuals agreed to stand aside. There was approval for a minute of expression of gratitude for the years of service given the Yearly Meeting by Peter Goldberger, particularly in the court cases concerning war tax resisters. Clerk released the War Tax Refusal Policy Committee with the Meeting's approval.

4. We adjourned, agreeing to meet again at 8:30 sixth day morning.

July 30 – morning

The 2010 Summer Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends convened Sixth Day morning, July 30, 2010, at 8:30 a.m. at DeSales University in Center Valley, PA. The announced theme of both of our 2010 Sessions is “We Make the Road by Walking.” Friends settled into Meeting for Worship.

1. At the appointed hour of 9:30 a.m., the Meeting settled into a period of waiting worship with the intent to business.

The Clerk, Thomas Swain (Middletown MM, Concord Quarter) introduced himself and asked others at the clerk’s table to do the same. Alternate Clerks are Mark Myers (London Grove MM) and Jada Jackton (Trenton MM and Burlington Worship Group). Recording Clerks are David Rose (Lehigh Valley MM) and Alison Levie (Goshen MM). Also present were Arthur Larrabee (Central Philadelphia MM) General Secretary, TylaAnn Burger (Green Street MM), Treasurer and Jack Mahon (Woodstown MM), Clerk of Financial Stewardship.

Visitors from other Yearly Meetings are recognized and welcomed.

The Meeting heard the following epistle: Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Epistle read by Elizabeth Martin (attender at Arch Street MM). The theme for the Yearly Meeting session was “Living Our Testimonies Today: Let’s See What Love Can Do”

Elders were asked to rise and identify themselves.

2. Mark Myers introduced the members of the Priorities Process Standing Committee and called on Ken Park (Providence MM) to present the committee report. The report highlighted the ways that the priorities established in 2009 have been used to direct the work of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. (Summer Sessions Report Priorities Process Standing Committee, PYM Priorities: A Framework for Action 2009-2012 appended to these minutes)

3. Clerk called the Meeting back to considerations of the budget and offered some remarks to assist us in our process of discernment. The Treasurer, Tyla Ann Burger, was asked to provide the information on the budget. She clarified the issues that were raised by the presentation yesterday and described the budget presented as an investment which reflects our priorities. Jack Mahon, Clerk of Financial Stewardship offered to answer questions regarding the budget process.

The Clerk then asked the Meeting to settle into worship to discern our right action regarding the budget and stated his personal assurance that the Meeting can discern whether this budget is right for us.

After a period of open worship, the Clerk asked if Meeting was ready to approve the budget for funding year 2011. After a Friend spoke of the importance of us coming closer together, and not just raising the money, the Clerk voiced the Meeting's approval of the budget as presented.

4. After a celebratory break, the Clerk asked the Meeting to continue considering the scheduling, frequency and location of Annual Session. The Annual Sessions planning group has been holding these concerns and Amy Ward Brimmer (Fallsington MM) gave the report on "Our Five Year Experiment 2007-2011" which provided the background needed to inform the discussion. This information included both March and Summer Residential Meeting staff preparation time, cost to individuals and Yearly Meeting, and average attendance, broken down between adult and child. Issues that were raised in previous threshing sessions and in evaluations were listed. Amy also shared with us her personal journey and the impact that Yearly Meeting has had on her. The Clerk then provided space for Friends to raise their concerns and request information and clarifications.

After considerable discussion, which raised issues related to impact on the environment, cost, location, effect on community, and impressions on children, the Clerk reported back that the Meeting was not yet ready for a decision, but asked for approval for the Committee to Assist the Clerk including Amy Brimmer, a parent, Emily Blanck (Mickleton MM), and Mary Crauderueff (Radnor MM), a Young Adult Friend to bring a proposal back tomorrow. Suggestion accepted.

5. The Clerk asked for the minutes to be read. Minutes were read and after adjustments, approved.

After a brief period of open worship, announcements were made, and the Meeting adjourned to reconvene at 7:00 PM.

July 30 – evening

The 2010 Summer Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends convened Sixth Day evening, July 30, 2010, at 6:45 p.m. at DeSales University in Center Valley, PA. The announced theme of both of our 2010 Sessions is “We Make the Road by Walking.”

1. Meeting assembled at the appointed hour and settled into open worship.

The Clerk, Thomas Swain (Middletown MM, Concord Quarter), asked others at the clerk’s table to introduce themselves: Alternate Clerks John Ellsworth (Gwynedd MM), and Dana Kester McCabe (Wicomico River MM); Recording Clerks David Rose (Lehigh Valley MM) and Jim Herr (Lancaster MM); Arthur Larrabee (Central Philadelphia MM) General Secretary; and Patricia Finley (Old Haverford MM), Clerk of the Yearly Meeting’s Standing Committee on Peace and Concerns; members of the Eco-Justice Working Group were present on the facing bench. Our speech to text was provided by Becky Tallarico.

Visitors included Wilhelm Dahlloff of Sweden YM, Scilla Wahrhaftig of Pittsburgh MM, Lake Erie YM, AFSC Program Coordinator for Pennsylvania, Noah Baker Merrill, Putney MM, New England YM, and Rob Pierson, Intermountain YM.

Clerk introduced 3 PYM elders in attendance with us this evening.

Excerpts from epistles from Ireland and Japan Yearly Meetings were read by John Lavin (Birmingham MM).

2. Ingrid Lakey (Central Philadelphia MM) and Jonathan Snipes (Fallsington MM) from EQUAT (Earth Quaker Action Team), a group that grew out of last year’s residential sessions, told of a current program of Friendly non-violence urging PNC Bank to quit funding mountain top removal mining. Today a group went to the local PNC Bank and had a brief dialog with the branch manager, who promptly called the police. The police knew the group was doing nothing illegal, only passing out leaflets and telling people about PNC involvement with the very non-eco friendly mining PNC Bank was supporting.

3. Patricia Finley (Old Haverford MM) gave us an overview of the activities of the Peace and Concerns Standing Committee. Over the past several years the 11 members of the Committee have been working for peace, justice, and an earth restored. During this year they have been working with the Heading God’s Call group to work on gun violence prevention. They have been involved with the re-development of the Eco-Justice Working Group. In an attempt to bring the Yearly Meeting together, this committee is working to contact and involve Monthly Meeting and

Quarterly Meeting peace committees. Beginning Saturday, September 11, they will begin a focus on peace at the Arch Street meetinghouse, including installation of an International Peace Pole, peace murals, an all day program on "How to Communicate with 'the Other'," and stories from Friends Peace Teams. Clerk thanks Patricia for her work and for the work that the Standing Committee carries out in our name. (Friends Traveling on a Ministry of Peace, Justice, & and Earth Restored, Peace & Concerns Standing Committee Report appended to these minutes.

4. Clerk introduced the following section of the evening as a listening session for a work that can bring us together with a common concern, deep spiritual roots, and power beyond measure. He reminded us that early Friends felt we are stewards of God's wonderful world with God's guidance.

5. Margaret Mansfield (Mt. Holly MM), Steve Loughin (Old Haverford MM), and Hollister Knowlton (Chestnut Hill MM) told us about the Eco-Justice Working Group. (PYM and Eco-Justice: Planning for Action, Facilitating Change, Survey appended to these minutes) They feel they need a shared vision with all of the Yearly Meeting to seek a new image of right relationship with the earth. Hollister gave us a bit of history of Friend's vision of right relationship, as introduction to the seeds of a new dream. The Working Group offered a vision statement: "Led by Spirit, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting is a powerful force in co-creating an equitable and sustainable world in which human cultures hold sacred, actively respect and support the full beauty, diversity, and resilience of the entire commonwealth of life."

With this introduction, we settled into open worship. Out of the silence we heard urging that this is a duty we hold to our future generations. Although a friend urged us to make this statement more active, other friends found it very hopeful of Friends as co-creators. A friend suggested this statement represents a paradigm shift from God creating man as overseer of the earth to God giving the earth to humankind in sacred trust. Another friend expressed concern that a statement of vision can crystallize and limit our vision, creating an institution that no longer serves us but becomes our master. And another suggested that the genre of vision statement needs to balance our hope and our truth. A number of friends expressed appreciation that this statement represents our commitment.

On behalf of the Working Group, Viv Hawkins (Central Philadelphia MM) suggested that with this vision we may move forward, relying on God in new ways, and working entirely together. She suggested the following goals: (1) to build unity around a vision as conscientious objectors to the war against the earth; (2) Friends of PYM will become ministers and educators to amplify this vision in the community; (3) we will work for structural change by lobbying; (4) we will use outside strategies to work in partnership with vulnerable communities; (5) we will bring our Yearly Meeting financial resources into right relationship and move to bring our households into this light.

A friend suggested these goals give hope to our young people, and several others expressed great appreciation for their clarity. A friend reminded us that right relationship demands sacrifice of those in the western world and he urged us to move in spirit-led humility rather than with

powerful force. On a personal level, a friend suggested he ask on a daily basis “what does God want me to do today?” with an understanding that he must work with others for effectiveness. A friend expressed great appreciation that these goals point her to a life of more integrity and hope. Several friends urged us to be particularly aware of the importance of sharing our stories. A friend expressed appreciation that through these goals we are being conscripted by God into alternative service, which is also being acted upon by many others in the world today. A friend suggested a first step would be to have an energy audit of the Arch Street Meetinghouse. And another expressed conviction that if we are really praying and faithful, God will give us very clearly a large next step.

Clerk offered the following minute that was approved: Friends of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting do actively endorse, unite with, and commit ourselves to the work and direction of the Eco-Justice Working Group. We charge you to continue on the path you have been walking and to stay in dialog with us.

Michael Gagne (Central Philadelphia MM) summed up the work of the Working Group. They have been working on the hope of corporate prophetic witness by the Yearly Meeting. They have been holding to the Gandhian concepts of deep humility and leading with a force of love, with a vision to work for the next seven generations. He said we are going to continue to look for experiments that help the corporate and governmental powers feel the heat. He ended by reminding us that Gandhi urged his followers to take a wide variety of actions, not just one.

6. John Ellsworth read a minute from Wellsboro Monthly Meeting endorsed by Upper Susquehanna Quarterly Meeting on drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale formations of Pennsylvania. This minute will be considered by Interim Meeting in September. (Minute on drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale formations from Wellsboro Monthly Meeting and Upper Susquehanna Quarterly Meeting appended to these minutes)

7. We adjourned, agreeing to meet again at 8:30 seventh day morning.

July 31 – morning

The 2010 Summer Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends convened Seventh Day morning, July 31, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. at DeSales University in Center Valley, PA. The announced theme of both of our 2010 Sessions is “We Make the Road by Walking.” Friends settled into Meeting for Worship.

1. The Clerk, Thomas Swain (Middletown MM, Concord Quarter), asked others at the clerk’s table to introduce themselves: Alternate Clerks Jada Jackson (Trenton MM, Burlington Worship Group); John Ellsworth (Gwynedd MM); and Dana Kester McCabe, (Wicomico River MM); Recording Clerks Rich Ailes (Middletown MM, Concord Quarter); and Jim Herr (Lancaster MM); and Arthur Larrabee (Central Philadelphia MM) General Secretary. Also at the table were Martha Bryans (Uwchlan MM) of the Faith and Practice Revision Working Group; Alan Crosman (Newtown MM) Clerk of Arch Street Standing Committee; and Amy Ward Brimmer (Fallsington MM), member of Sessions Planning Working Group. Our speech to text was provided by Becky Tallarico.

Visitors included Wilhelm Dahlloff of Sweden YM, Robin Kenster-Patterson, Denver MM, Intermountain YM, Noah Baker Merrill, Putney MM, New England YM, and Jan Hoffman, Mt. Toby MM, New England YM.

Clerk introduced 5 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting elders in attendance with us this morning.

Excerpts from the epistle from the Australia Yearly Meetings were read by Carter Nash (Harrisburg MM).

2. Alan Crosman told us the Arch Street Standing Committee continues to consider that: the building is the home of the Monthly Meeting of Friends of Philadelphia, a meeting place for the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting community, an opportunity for outreach to 40,000 visitors per year, and a meeting place for other organizations. In response to a request from the Monthly Meeting, there is planning for a playground on the grounds. In the last year, there were 400 meetings of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting groups that used the meetinghouse. There were 948 people, a record, who visited on one Friday in the last year; more guides are always needed. We will be looking at our one millionth visitor some time in 2012. Although Philadelphia Yearly Meeting groups are using the building at more times during an average month, other groups continue to rent the space. For example, in March the space was used by the group celebrating the 200th anniversary of the demise of the Penn Treaty Elm. The working group is still planning to come to us next year with a plan for the future of this meetinghouse.

3. Martha Bryans (Uwchlan MM) reporting for the clerk of the Faith and Practice Revision Working Group, urged us to provide the committee with suggestions for changes. They are immediately charged with noting our Yearly Meeting restructuring, but they continue to seek to include timeless guidance and inspiration. So they are looking both to the details and the big picture, a large task that is, at times, rather daunting. A concern was expressed that our Faith and Practice include some consideration of Friends and economics. There is an email address for members to provide suggestions to the working group (fnp.pym@gmail.com). Clerk asked Martha to offer our greetings to her father, Francis Brown, who is recovering from a broken hip.

4. To maintain continuity in our discussion of Yearly Meeting sessions, Jada Jackson read a minute of exercise from our March 27 sessions and an excerpt from November 14 Interim Meeting minutes on this consideration. Amy Ward Brimmer read a minute from the K-5 age group on sessions to help inform our discernment on the issue. (A minute from the Fox and Fisher Groups (K-5) from Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Friday evening, July 30, 2010 appended to these minutes) She then read a recommendation from the Committee to support the Clerk: (1) that Philadelphia Yearly Meeting meets once a year for annual session; (2) that locations alternate-one year in center city Philadelphia, the next on a campus setting; (3) that sessions be held as near as possible to the last week of July; and (4) that this schedule begin next year.

It was noted that Arch Street meetinghouse may be inappropriate for mid-summer meetings, but we can use other buildings in center city, such as Friends Center. A friend noted that there have been 780 people who have come to both sessions; to have them all at one place at one time would be wonderful. It was suggested that sessions in Philadelphia might offer radical hospitality-the opportunity for friends there to open their houses to visitors-and a friend suggested the Burlington meetinghouse can offer inexpensive rooms. A friend expressed a desire to meet only in Philadelphia in March, and another expressed a desire to meet only on a campus setting outside of Philadelphia, perhaps rotating around the geographic boundaries of the Yearly Meeting. There were many concerns expressed about coming back to DeSales; however, because of the need for enormous lead time, the planning group recommended returning next year. A friend reminded us that we can be nourished by each other wherever we meet, and the economic environment may force us to reconsider everything. A friend expressed sadness that we would be meeting just once, since sessions are totally reinvigorating. In answer to this concern Christie Duncan-Tessmer gave a long list of day-long activities in Philadelphia for Friends to attend.

We took a break and settled into worship. Out of the silence several friends expressed enormous faith in the spirit among us. Clerk then heard approval for meeting for annual sessions once per year. There was no clarity for alternating location, and the clerk asked for particular concerns with the idea of holding sessions in Philadelphia. A friend expressed great sadness that losing March sessions will cut a tie to Friends schools, which used to close for sessions. A friend told us that we are punishing the 205 year old Arch Street meetinghouse by meeting there for 4 days. A friend expressed great concern that it would be extremely difficult to handle large groups of children in Philadelphia. She pointed out that, for all the Yearly Meetings of North America, we have far and away the poorest representation of our Meeting's children at sessions, and to

continue to grow and be vibrant, it is very important to welcome children. However, another friend reminded us that many, many large and wonderful children's programs have taken place at the Arch Street Meetinghouse in Philadelphia in the past. Another friend expressed conviction that our Yearly Meeting will welcome and greet many more families with children as a result of Quaker Quest, and we need to prepare for that.

With approval for one annual session, Clerk received approval for a two year experiment, meeting in the summer of 2011 here at DeSales University and in center city Philadelphia in July 2012.

5. We heard a brief explanation of activities of all the children, from the Frys (youngest group) through Young Friends.

6. We adjourned, agreeing to meet again at 7:00 p.m. seventh day evening.

July 31 – evening

The 2010 Summer Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends convened Seventh Day evening, July 31, 2010, at 6:45 p.m. at DeSales University in Center Valley, PA. The announced theme of both of our 2010 Sessions is “We Make the Road by Walking.” Friends settled into Meeting for Worship.

1. Clerk Thomas Swain (Middletown MM, Concord Quarter) presided with members of the Yearly Meeting’s Standing Committee on Education and the Young Adult Friends Delegation Israel/Palestine present on the facing bench. Others at the clerk’s table introduced themselves. Alternate clerks were John Elsworth (Gwynedd MM) Dana Kester-McCabe (Wicomico River MM), and Jada Jackson (Trenton MM and Burlington Worship Group). Recording clerks were Jane Keller (Pennsdale MM) and Jim Herr (Lancaster MM). Also present was Kimberly Haas DiLiberto (Uwchlan MM) Clerk of the Education Standing Committee, Sandy Rea (Central Philadelphia MM) Clerk of the Middle East Working Group, and Arthur Larrabee (Central Philadelphia MM) General Secretary.

Visitors from other meetings were recognized and welcomed. They included Wilhelm Dahlloff of Sweden YM; Noah Baker Merrill, Putney MM, New England YM; and Debbie and John Humphries, Hartford MM, New England YM. On the facing chairs were Chloe Tucker, Charlottesville MM, Baltimore Yearly Meeting; Jaya Karsemeyer, Toronto MM, Canadian YM; Nony Dutton, Homewood MM, Baltimore YM; Amrit Moor, Maury River MM, Baltimore YM; Violet Goncarvos, Ithaca MM, New York YM; and Jared Wood, YAF delegate. Speech to text was offered by Robert Hemingway.

The Clerk introduced 6 Elders of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

2. The meeting was given a printed draft of the outgoing epistle from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Friends were asked to make comments on the drafts to share with the epistle committee at the rise of this meeting.

3. Clerk addressed some of the comments made at morning sessions, reminding us to be tender with one another when we express our concerns about the policies of the church of our host facilities.

4. Clerk read a minute from November 14, 2009 Interim Meeting and from this morning's session to clarify what was agreed to: a two-year experiment, meeting in the summer of 2011 here at DeSales and in center city Philadelphia in July 2012.

From our November 14, 2010 Interim Meeting minutes: The issue of scheduling Yearly Meeting Sessions will be considered at a Threshing Session at both March Session and Summer Session and considered for approval at Summer Session. A process minute will be forwarded from March Session to July Session to keep continuity with our discussion. It is understood that the issue will be returned to Fall Interim Meeting if not resolved at Summer Session. APPROVED

5. Alternate Clerk called on Kimberly Haas DiLiberto, Clerk of the Education Standing Committee, who introduced the members of her committee and recounted their accomplishments and goals.

6. Alternate clerk called on Sandy Rae (Central Philadelphia MM), Clerk of the Middle East Working Group, to introduce the members of the delegation to Israel/Palestine. They spent two weeks there, one visiting delegates and peace groups and the second to meet and travel with those involved in the Quaker Palestinian Youth Project on the West Bank.

The delegation members introduced themselves. Pictures from their experience were shown and one member told a story of a Palestinian who has become a national leader in a movement for non-violence, struggling to find the Light within his oppressors. Another spoke of the possibility of peace in the Holy Lands and asked the meeting to act toward that goal. A video related to the Boycott-Divestment Sanctions action against Israel was shown. The purpose of this action is to end the occupation, dismantle the wall, give full equality to Palestinians in Israel, and obtain the right of return for refugees. Friends were asked to recognize the importance to support the effort.

7. Clerk called on Sadie Forsythe (Putney MM, New England YM) PYM staff for Young Adult Friends to introduce the keynote speaker, Noah Baker Merrill (Putney MM, New England YM) and his elders Eric Evans (Central Philadelphia MM) and Jan Hoffman (Mt. Toby MM, NEYM). Noah brought a Minute of Religious Service from Putney MM. Friends were asked to settle into worship preparing the way for Noah to speak on the topic of "Where the Resurrection Meets the Road." He called on God to guide us to the endless horizon of love. He spoke of coming into fellowship with this body, to feel "baptized into the condition of Friends" and of God. He spoke of traveling with his adopted Iraqi sister, Neshla, at Niagara Falls; they reflected on the experience of war and displacement and the brutalization and genocide of her people during the invasion of Iraq, and they prayed and heard hope beyond despair. He experienced Christmas behind the wall in Bethlehem and in that imprisoned state he understood what it was to know that great joy of Christ's birth. He also experienced Easter with the 1.5 million persecuted Christians in Iraq. He came to know that as a prophetic people we can respond to the call, to

stand in the place between the promise and the prison, to be a sign of God in the world, to bring hope that exists beyond despair. We are called to bring the heart of God wherever we may be; the power to bring redemption may move through us. He called on us to pray that God will make room in our hearts and in our world for the well of living water to spring up. We should make space for God to come in. Only through the guidance of the Spirit is redemption possible. The resurrection is the symbol of the hope that comes beyond despair. Our encounter with the Spirit is transformative; we can once again become Children of the Light.

The body approved the Clerk endorsing Noah's travel minute.

8. Friends adjourned to meet first day, August 1, at 9 a.m. for business and worship.

July 31 – evening

The 2010 Summer Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends convened Seventh Day evening, July 31, 2010, at 6:45 p.m. at DeSales University in Center Valley, PA. The announced theme of both of our 2010 Sessions is “We Make the Road by Walking.” Friends settled into Meeting for Worship.

1. Clerk Thomas Swain (Middletown MM, Concord Quarter) presided with members of the Yearly Meeting’s Standing Committee on Education and the Young Adult Friends Delegation Israel/Palestine present on the facing bench. Others at the clerk’s table introduced themselves. Alternate clerks were John Elsworth (Gwynedd MM) Dana Kester-McCabe (Wicomico River MM), and Jada Jackson (Trenton MM and Burlington Worship Group). Recording clerks were Jane Keller (Pennsdale MM) and Jim Herr (Lancaster MM). Also present was Kimberly Haas DiLiberto (Uwchlan MM) Clerk of the Education Standing Committee, Sandy Rea (Central Philadelphia MM) Clerk of the Middle East Working Group, and Arthur Larrabee (Central Philadelphia MM) General Secretary.

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2. The meeting was given a printed draft of the outgoing epistle from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Friends were asked to make comments on the drafts to share with the epistle committee at the rise of this meeting.

3. Clerk addressed some of the comments made at morning sessions, reminding us to be tender with one another when we express our concerns about the policies of the church of our host facilities.

4. Clerk read a minute from November 14, 2009 Interim Meeting and from this morning's session to clarify what was agreed to: a two-year experiment, meeting in the summer of 2011 here at DeSales and in center city Philadelphia in July 2012.

From our November 14, 2010 Interim Meeting minutes: The issue of scheduling Yearly Meeting Sessions will be considered at a Threshing Session at both March Session and Summer Session and considered for approval at Summer Session. A process minute will be forwarded from March Session to July Session to keep continuity with our discussion. It is understood that the issue will be returned to Fall Interim Meeting if not resolved at Summer Session. APPROVED

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stand in the place between the promise and the prison, to be a sign of God in the world, to bring hope that exists beyond despair. We are called to bring the heart of God wherever we may be; the power to bring redemption may move through us. He called on us to pray that God will make room in our hearts and in our world for the well of living water to spring up. We should make space for God to come in. Only through the guidance of the Spirit is redemption possible. The resurrection is the symbol of the hope that comes beyond despair. Our encounter with the Spirit is transformative; we can once again become Children of the Light.

The body approved the Clerk endorsing Noah's travel minute.

8. Friends adjourned to meet first day, August 1, at 9 a.m. for business and worship.

August 1 – morning

The 2010 Summer Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends convened First Day morning, August 1, 2010, at 8:30 a.m. at DeSales University in Center Valley, PA. The announced theme of both of our 2010 Sessions is “We Make the Road by Walking.” At the appointed hour the Meeting settled into a period of open worship.

1. At the rise of meeting for worship the Clerk Thomas Swain (Middletown MM, Concord Quarter) introduced himself and asked others at the Clerk’s table to introduce themselves: Alternate Clerk Jada Jackson (Trenton MM and Burlington Worship Group); and Dana Kester McCabe (Wicomico River MM); Recording Clerk: Jim Herr (Lancaster MM); and David Rose (Lehigh Valley MM); and Arthur Larrabee (Central Philadelphia MM) General Secretary.

The Meeting heard the following epistles: Sweden Yearly Meeting read by Wilhelm Dahlloff of Stockholm Yearly Meeting.

2. Minutes of Saturday morning were read by Jim Herr. After some messages from Friends regarding their concerns that they wished to be included in the minutes and clarifications offered, the minutes were approved.

3. Mario Cavallini (Mickleton MM) read a draft of the outgoing Epistle from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Members of the Epistle Committee were asked to identify themselves. Comments resulted in changes made to indicate that the goals of the Eco-Justice Working Group were a direction that was approved by the Meeting. The Epistle was approved with the understanding that the revised Epistle will be read again before the end of Sessions.

4. Benjamin Lloyd (Haverford MM) gave the report for the Standing Committee on Worship and Care. (Report appended to these minutes) He spoke of the work of the committee and raised two groups, Pastoral Care and Adult Religious Education, as especially needing the love and concern of the Yearly Meeting. Benjamin expressed concern that with the economic difficulties of himself and many others in society, it is difficult to give as much time as he would like to give to the life of the Yearly Meeting and asked us to consider if we are asking ourselves to do too much. The Clerk asked us to hold the report, and members of the committee, in prayer and conversation.

5. Minutes were read, suggestions were offered, and minutes were approved with the understanding that the suggestions would be incorporated.

6. After a break, the Meeting gathered again for Business at 10:20 a.m.

Paula Cell (Germantown MM), of the Sessions Planning Committee, recognized Lou Ann Merkle as Annual Sessions Coordinator for the work she has done to make the this session a wonderful experience.

7. The Clerk asked the meeting to pause for a moment to remember the passing of Friend Sondra Ball (Mickleton MM), a member whose life was in service to the Yearly Meeting and Salem Quarter.

8. How are we doing as a Yearly Meeting? A framing statement given by Arthur Larrabee, General Secretary, prior to the group settling into worship to provide response to this question. Arthur asked that we not limit ourselves to just considering Annual Sessions, but the Yearly Meeting as a whole, and provided a set of queries for us to ask ourselves to assist in our reflection. Messages given asked us to see Young Adult Friends as just Friends, to share the excitement and energy we experienced living in a Blessed Community here back to our Monthly Meetings and to get others Friends connected with each other through helping in the work of Yearly Meeting. A number of messages spoke of the positive changes Friends have experienced over the past few years, which are expressed in the love experienced through our conducting the business of the Yearly Meeting.

9. Minutes were read, suggestions were offered, and minutes were approved.

10. Meeting settled into a period of worship, during which the younger Friends joined us. Each group read its epistle, many of which were expressions of both awe and whimsy. The meeting was shown a display by the "Foxes" (named after George and Margaret Fox) K though 1 age group and an Epistle of their work was read. The "Fishers" (named after Mary Fisher) age group showed their work and read its Epistle. Next came Middle School Friends and then Young (high school) Friends shared their Epistle raising a concern about the quality of inclusion of young high school Friends and offering suggestions for including younger friends in all parts of the Sessions. Young Adults Friends spoke of their support for the Yearly Meeting Epistle, to the extent that they did not feel the need for a separate epistle.

At the request of a Friend, the Clerk asked if the Epistles from the Younger Friends be included with the Annual Sessions Epistle. After discussion, which expressed concern about including the Epistle from the Younger Friends as separate Epistles, the Clerk asked for approval with the understanding that next year the process for creating an Epistle could include the Younger Friends. Approved.

11. Minutes were approved.

12. After a period of open worship, the rereading of the outgoing Epistle, and the Clerk's Minute of Exercise, the meeting adjourned, proposing to meeting Seventh Month, 27-31, 2011 at De Sales University (as decided by our earlier consideration) or at the call of the Clerk.

Thomas Swain, Clerk
Rich Ailes,
Jane Keller,
Jim Herr,
Alison Levie,
David Rose,
Recording Clerks