



September 10, 2015

Ministry and Counsel Clerks, Monthly Meeting Clerks, Meeting Contacts, Pastors and Friends,

The August 1st called Representative Body received reports from almost all Monthly Meetings as to how they would like to see the NCYM move forward. The Task Group appointed in June Representative Body when the New Committee was laid down took this information, much work from the New Committee, discussion from recent Representative Body meetings, and existing documents in order to bring a report to Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions. Please note that contents of the report were **NOT** approved. The approval was for the Task Group to move forward with receiving Minutes from ALL Monthly Meetings in response to the Plan from the Task Group.

Attached you will find a copy of the Plan for our next steps forward. Please provide this to your Monthly Meeting and begin to discern your responses to each of the 4 Steps. Please provide a specific response to each Step, if possible. In addition, provide us with any concerns/difficulties your Monthly Meeting may have with these Steps as well as the Recommended Way Forward.

Please send a Minute(s) giving the Monthly Meeting's response to the Steps to the Yearly Meeting office by 12-1-15. If your Monthly Meeting requires more time, please notify the Yearly Meeting office by 12-1-15 and an extension can be given to January 15, 2016, at the latest. The Task Group will begin immediately reviewing the Monthly Meeting responses in order to prepare a report to Representative Body.

We desire to hear from every Monthly Meeting across the Yearly Meeting. This is your Monthly Meeting's opportunity to be an important part of the future of North Carolina Yearly Meeting. Do not think that your Monthly Meeting has no part in this. Every response will be considered as the Task Group continues its work.

Please note that the PowerPoint presentation shared at Annual Sessions is available by contacting the Yearly Meeting office. If you need additional clarification about how your Monthly Meeting is to respond to this request, please feel free to contact me as Clerk of the Task Group (jcritter@yadtel.net).

In His Love,

Judy C Ritter
Clerk, NCYM Task Group

The Plan
North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Friends

1. All Monthly Meetings shall approve or reaffirm NCYM Faith & 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 presents our core spiritual beliefs in a clear, concise manner.

Affirmation of Faith & Practice as our guide does not establish a creed.

Please explain any difficulty the monthly meeting has with this request.

This request shall be considered by all monthly meetings and a copy of the approved minute related to this request submitted to the Yearly Meeting office by December 1, 2015 for review by the Task Force.

2. No monthly meeting in NCYM shall have dual membership with another yearly meeting. However, if a monthly meeting feels compelled to join another Yearly Meeting, the Monthly Meeting shall present their reasons to NCYM Executive Committee and NCYM Ministry and Counsel for consideration and approval.

Please explain any difficulty the monthly meeting has with this request.

This request shall be considered by all monthly meetings and a copy of the approved minute related to this request submitted to the Yearly Meeting office by December 1, 2015 for review by the Task Force.

3. Monthly Meetings shall “reaffirm Friends’ Historic testimony for Integrity:
 - a. In morality and the Christian Family: complete continence before marriage, complete fidelity in marriage, one man and one woman, for life.
 - b. In honesty in personal word and deed: in business, government, and relations with other nations.
 - c. In our stewardship over the wonderful world which God has entrusted to us: to protect the air and water from pollution as worthy stewards of God.
 - d. In never consciously doing anything that injures other people or injures one’s self unless it is necessary to help others. This includes complete abstinence from alcohol and harmful drugs.

We urge each Meeting in North Carolina Yearly Meeting to teach this in creative ways to all members and attenders. We urge each Meeting to encourage in every way possible the living out of these testimonies in everyday life. We urge each Meeting on Ministry and Counsel to take very seriously its role of providing spiritual leadership and spiritual nourishment to the members and attenders of the meeting.”

Approved by NCYM in session 8th month, 11th day, 1990

Please explain any difficulty the monthly meeting has with this request.

This request shall be considered by all monthly meetings and a copy of the approved minute related to this request submitted to the Yearly Meeting office by December 1, 2015 for review by the Task Force.

4. All Monthly Meetings shall have financial responsibility to NCYM. For the foreseeable future of NCYM, Monthly Meetings faithfully pledge to give their best efforts to pay their Askings per member in full and if unable to meet this expectation shall immediately notify the Yearly Meeting and include an explanation of why full payment is not being made.
Please explain any difficulty the monthly meeting has with this request.

This request shall be considered by all Monthly Meetings and a copy of the approved minute related to this request submitted to the Yearly Meeting office by December 1, 2015 for review by the Task Force.

Recommended Way Forward:

NCYM will be comprised of those Monthly Meetings desiring membership.

Monthly Meetings that respond affirmatively to steps 1 through 4 of The Plan are members of NCYM with representation and the individual members of the Monthly Meetings shall be accorded all privileges and benefits offered by the Yearly Meeting.

Monthly Meetings that do not respond affirmatively to steps 1 through 4 of The Plan may remain a member of NCYM for a period of time up to one year, with representation at Representative Body meetings and 2016 Annual Sessions and members will continue to serve on committees. This time period will allow the newly created committee comprised of the Superintendent, Presiding Clerk, Executive Committee Clerk and Ministry & Counsel Clerk to assist the monthly meeting in determining its future and/or allow the monthly meeting to reconsider the responses to steps 1 through 4.