

Task Group Report to Representative Body

March 5, 2016

North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Friends (NCYM), a Christian organization, is composed of Christ-centered Quaker Monthly Meetings across North Carolina and into Virginia that hold to the following:

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)

Faith and Practice

Monthly Meetings of NCYM shall endeavor to follow the most recent revision of Faith and Practice that further spells out our faith and aids us as we put our faith into practice. Furthermore, our Representative Body deals with and approves issues we should also endeavor to follow. (Faith and Practice, 2012 edition, pages 94-95.)

Support

No Monthly Meeting in NCYM shall have dual membership in another Yearly Meeting. (A clarifying revision to Faith and Practice would be needed, if approved by Representative Body.)

Integrity

NCYM Faith and Practice provides direction for how we should strive to lead lives of integrity, peacefulness, equality, and service to others.

Financial Responsibility

All Monthly Meetings of NCYM 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 Office and include an explanation of why full payment is not being made.

Restoring Gospel Order

In light of the various issues and concerns the Yearly Meeting has experienced, Monthly Meetings are encouraged to test a leading before acting to ensure they are not harming themselves or others by any actions taken. Representative Body in session Eleventh month, Seventh day, 2015 approved reinserting the Jurisdiction section of Yearly Meeting Responsibilities that was omitted from the 1970 edition of Faith and Practice. This section is as follows:

“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 process of dealing with a concern by a Monthly Meeting regarding another member Meeting of NCYM shall be undertaken in a spirit of love and tenderness and in keeping with Matthew 18:15-17 and the desire for good Gospel Order and shall be as follows:

If a Meeting of North Carolina Yearly Meeting has a concern about any other Meeting within the Yearly Meeting, the concerned meeting will attempt to schedule and have a face-to-face meeting with the offending congregation (incorporating a few representatives from each meeting). This is in keeping with Matthew 18 and its guidance to first have a private meeting. It would be important that the Yearly Meeting/ Representative Body not entertain any concern or complaint against a monthly meeting until it has been established that an attempt has been made for a face-to-face meeting between the disputing meetings.

If a face-to-face meeting of representatives of the Meetings cannot be arranged, or the invited Meeting rejects the invitation, or the concern is not resolved in the face-to-face meeting, then the concern may be brought to the NCYM Ministry and Counsel. At that point, it would become the task of NCYM Ministry and Counsel, and others which they may engage to intervene and work out a face-to-face meeting with representatives of the two local Meetings, and attended by representatives of NCYM Ministry and Counsel to support efforts to achieve reconciliation. Again, the Yearly Meeting/ Representative Body would not entertain any concern or complaint against another monthly meeting until the NCYM Ministry and Counsel’s representatives have determined no resolution was attainable between the two meetings.

If steps #1 and #2 do not yield any progress or the concern still remains, NCYM Ministry and Counsel should endeavor, in a spirit of love and tenderness, to resolve the difficulties and work with the involved Meetings to achieve that state of mind and heart that will enable the Meetings to be restored to fellowship with the Yearly Meeting. If the exercise of due care and forbearance shall be of no avail, the NCYM Ministry and Counsel shall present its recommendation for resolution for the approval of Representative Body/Yearly Meeting, potentially culminating in a minute of disownment from North Carolina Yearly Meeting.