

**Minute of Reorganization
of the
North Carolina Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of
Friends**

August 13,2016

Over the past 319 years, the North Carolina Yearly Meeting has never been without a time when we debated who we were as Christians and as Quakers; and the steps that we should take to fulfill the missions of Christ on earth.

As the years have become decades and the decades have become centuries, the multiple views and competing positions in this discussion have moved farther apart. The challenge of bridging our differences has become an increasingly daunting task.

In recent years, the chorus of voices concerned about our differences has risen, and we have labored diligently to find a way to maintain our unity of purpose, our unity of worship, and the unity of our corporate body.

Managing this conversation has become a regular task of the Yearly Meeting's Executive Committee, to the exclusion of other work for which we have been appointed. After many meetings, and after long and prayerful discussions, the Executive Committee concludes that matters within our yearly meeting are moving too swiftly for us to assume a posture of organizational inertia.

In just the past year, 19 of our 72 meetings have left the Yearly Meeting and two meetings have been laid down. A diverse group of ministers has asked the Executive Committee to recommend a structured pathway to separation. Southern Quarter has united in asking that we consider taking steps towards division. And we have been informed that several more meetings will leave the Yearly Meeting if action leading to reorganization or division is not quick and decisive.

This afternoon the Executive Committee listened attentively to the questions raised and comments made during morning breakout sessions. We know much more now than we did prior to annual session regarding the beliefs, the fears, the anxieties, and the aspirations of represented meetings.

However, we did not hear a sufficiently strong consensus for unity, and therefore we return to you, as your Executive Committee, seeking approval of the plan as broadly outlined at this morning's session, but with a focus on reorganization rather than separation.

Based on the collective suggestions made in each of your groups, the plan may look differently as we take measured and considered steps towards a reorganized body. At each step, our recommendations and decisions will be made according to your input and approval, and they will be taken in a manner that respects the needs and interests of all members of our Yearly Meeting.

We know that there are questions to which we do not yet have answers and that there is now and will later be uncertainty, but as we acknowledge our depleted ranks and consider the rising volume of dissatisfied voices, we conclude that our only reasonable option is to work towards reorganization in whatever form it takes. Within this plan of reorganization, each meeting's destiny will be controlled and determined by the meeting itself, and each resulting organization will determine its own theological identity.

In the face of these many, unknowns and in the Spirit of the same Christ that brought us together 319 years ago, we ask this body to approve the plan presented this morning, but with a focus on reorganization into two groups.

Approved this 13th day, eight month, 2016.

Mike Fulp, Presiding Clerk

NCYM