

August 9, 2014

Ken Spivey
1547 Cox Brothers Rd.
Asheboro, N.C. 27205

N.C.Y.M. Executive Committee
Committee Members,

As per your request concerning input concerning the future of North Carolina Yearly Meeting, after having served six years on the Executive Committee, I that I must remind the current members that their's is to **make** recommendations to the Representative Body for that body's action, not to **set** policy.

Now, about this idea of the Yearly Meeting being the final authority, **Never!** Any Bible believing Christian (Christian being one who believes in the diety of Christ) knows that the Holy Bible is the final authority. This is my stand. And, if I understand the Faith and Practice correctly, this is Friends' belief as well. I quote from the 1981 edition, 1999 printing, page 128:

It has ever been, and still is, the belief of the Society of Friends that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God, that, therefore, there can be no appeal from them to any other (outward) authority whatsoever; ...

If we are going to survive as a Yearly Meeting, our Yearly Meeting **must** be composed of like-minded meetings. **Never** must we become a hodge-podge of meetings wherein each meeting can believe whatever they want and still belong to North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Friends.

The apostle Paul is recognized as the greatest missionary ever. What made him so great? Was it his good looks, his persona, exactly what? It was his belief in Christ Jesus as his Savior and Lord and his devotion to this same Christ Jesus. And, Christ cannot be one's Lord unless He is first and foremost one's Savior. Again, if North Carolina Yearly Meeting is going to survive, we **must** stand firmly upon the diety and atonement of Christ, the inspiration and authority of the Holy Bible, what sin is and how to get salvation, as well as the Biblical teaching that marriage is the union of **one** man to **one** woman.

Because some of our meetings have strayed from these teachings, we have become unequally yoked together with unbelievers. I am in total agreement with items 1 - 4 addressed

in the letter from Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting, dated July 8, 2014.

Now we come to our theological issues/differences. In order to be a life changing, vibrant Church, we **must** be in unity/agreement concerning the basic/ essential truths of the Christian faith, **and** we should support **only** those ministries that are Bible based, Christ-centered ministries. We should disassociate ourselves from **any** ministry/organization that isn't Bible based and Christ-centered, such as Guilford College, Ramalah Friends School, F.C.N.L., and others. This disassociation should include those meetings who have chosen to join, or support, other organizations/yearly meetings, such as Friends General Conference and Piedmont Friends Fellowship. These meetings should be expelled, ("written out of meeting"). This includes meetings as New Garden, Winston Salem, Spring, and any others who hold a different view of Christ and the Holy Scriptures that most meetings in North Carolina Yearly Meeting hold. I believe that such double-mindedness makes it impossible for us to continue to attempt to work together. I also believe that anyone adhering to teachings contrary to the Holy Scriptures should not be allowed to hold **any** position of responsibility within the Yearly Meeting. Those holding such positions should resign immediately.

"But you're being unkind and unloving." Not so. Was Christ being unloving when He called the Jewish leaders to account? Was Christ being unloving when He cleansed the Temple? Absolutely not! What was doing was trying to get these people to see the error of their ways. And that is what I hope to accomplish here, to help these misguided people see the error of their ways. Because that is what the love of Christ is about, to bring these people to repentance and belief in Him as Savior and Lord.

What is really unkind and unloving is for these people to blaspheme the name of Christ Jesus after what He did for them at Calvary and through that empty tomb. Hear! Hear!

The sad fact is, we are a "House divided," and a house divided cannot stand. I believe that the only way North Carolina Yearly Meeting can ever move forward is for the above mentioned meetings, and others like them, to leave the Yearly Meeting.

What can be done to insure Christ-centered, Bible based doctrine within North Carolina Yearly Meeting? What are some

solutions? For one, I believe we need an addendum to the Faith and Practice. We need a provision for the Yearly Meeting to be able to better enforce theological issues. If a meeting should stray from Christ-centered, Bible based Doctrine, the Yearly Meeting should be able to discipline them, and, if need be, remove them from membership.

The same is true for the recording of ministers. The N.C.Y.M. Recording Committee, along with the Yearly Meeting Ministry and Counsel should have the authority to reject anyone if they do not adhere to sound Biblical doctrine as laid out in Faith and Practice.

Most Friends believe the biblical concept of marriage. That marriage was instituted by God for the purpose of procreation, and that it is to be between

one man and **one** woman. If procreation is the purpose of marriage, will somebody please tell me which partner in a homosexual marriage will have a baby. You know, God is pretty smart after all, isn't He? The Holy Scriptures are very adamant that these so-called homosexual marriages are in direct violation of God's will and plan for mankind.

What are some needs of North Carolina Yearly Meeting? To begin with, we need to be a unified body of believers who preach and teach the same things, like the deity of Christ Jesus, the infallibility and authority of the Holy Bible. Our chief goal should, no, **must be**, to win the lost to Christ, then disciple them in the faith that they too can go out and win others.

As quickly as possible, with much prayer and supplication, we need hire a Christ-centered, Bible believing superintendent with some level of authority for guidance, even discipline in regards to ignoring sound Biblical doctrine.

The same pertains to a Director of Youth and Intern Ministries. This individual must be a Christ-centered, Bible believing individual who can, and will, lead and teach our youth in the ways of Christ Jesus.

We must continue to support and expand Friends Campus Ministries as a means of reaching and discipling college students for Christ Jesus.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.
In the Love of Christ Jesus,

Ken Spivey

Copy to: Hugh Spaulding
Brent McKinny