

GENERAL SESSION MINUTES

June 10, 2004, 1 p.m. Opening Session

- 1-04 Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting of the Friends Church convened its 48th annual assembly on June 10, 2004, at 1 p.m. in the Millard V. Powell Chapel, Quaker Ridge Camp, Woodland Park, Colorado, with John Brawner presiding.
- 2-04 Roll call of representatives was done by Merle Clowe, Assistant Presiding Clerk:
Beaver Park:
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| Chivington: | Galan Burnett |
| Colorado Springs: | Dan Jamison, Jim Towne, Sharlene Martin, Bruce Roberts.
Alternates: Eleanor Harrison, Karen Fulbright |
| Crawford: | |
| Faith Friends: | Mary Burnett |
| First Denver: | David Cordova, Vicky Orwiler, Phil Burgi, Kay Burgi,
Mary Heathman, Karen Piil, Jane Bieshaar. Alternate:
Chuck Orwiler |
| Hasty: | |
| Las Animas: | Dennis West |
| New Hope: | Eugene and Naomi Vanhuss |
| Northwest: | Keith Hinshaw, Wayne Street, Carl Hunerwadel. Alternate:
Sue Brawner |
| Paonia: | Gaylen Kinser, Esther Kinser |
- 3-04 Chuck Orwiler led in a Concert of Prayer. Praying in small groups led into a time of open discussion regarding the calling and direction of RMYM. (See insert.)
- 4-04 John Brawner announced that in-coming Epistles were located in the dining hall for viewing or could be obtained from Karen Piil.
- 5-04 Representatives from several of the churches submitted documents and spoke on their thoughts regarding the needs and calling of RMYM. (See inserts.) Wayne Street observed regarding the suggestion of the Colorado Springs church on pulpit exchange that perhaps youth could be involved also.

The meeting was adjourned.

Friday, June 11, 2004, 9 a.m. General Session

- 6-04 Roll call: Additional representatives seated were Galan Burnett (Chivington) and Mary Burnett (Faith Friends).

7-04 Merle Clowe provided a review of the purpose discussion on 6-10 by reading a summary of the thoughts presented. (See insert.)

8-04 Board presidents reported on their deliberations from 6-10:

Spiritual Life: Gaylen Kinser reported that members discussed their passions for ministry and determined that God intends for us to continue to exist. Our ministries are evidence, because they are doing a good job of reaching people. We need to focus what we are doing and do it well. Souls were the burning desire of those who started RMYM and those who bought Quaker Ridge. Things occur that can keep us from our call. We need to discover together who we are, find our focus, and put our efforts on it. We sometimes do the right things in the wrong ways. Quaker Ridge, Rough Rock, EFM, and Where Grace Abounds: If these are our ministries, we have to focus on them. Our business needs to be an act of worship and not just a means of keeping the machine rolling.

Outreach: Carl Hunerwadel cited C.W. Perry's words, "A healthy church is one that gets outside of itself." We need to be encouraging local churches in their outreach emphases and helping them do it better as we can. We need to be communicating and networking with one another. When we visit the various churches, we need to send a group and not just a pastor. And we need to be church planting. We've talked about it and set aside funding, but with no plants coming from it. We are self-supporting and self-governing, but we are not yet self-propagating. We need to ride the wave of the growth on the Front Range. We need to look into the ways to do that.

Christian Education: Karen Fulbright reported on the board's discussion on its purpose: Our purpose is to help youth learn about Christ. As they are learning about Christ together, they are learning about each other. We are building for the future.

Stewards: Galan Burnett reported the Stewards' review of its purpose: We are to be proper stewards of what God has given us and see that each of our specific ministries has the finances it needs. God doesn't open up ministries without also providing all they need.

Missions: Phil Burgi reported a concern that people in our churches do not know or appreciate the history of Friends churches. RMYM is often seen as an entity that receives our money but we see little or no result from that. Are we helping the local churches in understanding Friends missions, conflict resolution, and church growth? There are almost four times more Friends in countries outside of our country than inside. We of RMYM represent 3 percent of Friends churches in the U.S., but our missions giving is 9 percent. Rough Rock has four local churches. Are we helping meet their needs?

Quaker Ridge: David Cordova reported on a wide range of purpose discussion. Quaker Ridge exists to save people. About 1,000 individuals per year make commitments or recommitments. The Ethel Clark building needs to be finished. It is only halfway done.

Reconciliation and healing is needed in interpersonal relationships in the Quaker Ridge board and in RMYM.

9-04 Max Chambers offered a prayer for unity as the board presidents stood. The essence of the prayer: Lord, help us to drop our defenses and open our arms to you and one another.

The meeting was adjourned.

Friday, June 11, 2004, 1 p.m. General Session

10-04 Merle Clowe led the representatives in a prayer session that included a prayer walk around the build where the Executive Board was meeting separately to discuss and prepare a draft of the purpose statement.

11-04 As the Executive Board joined the representatives, John Brawner offered a prayer for our next steps and then requested Merle Clowe to read the proposed RMYM purpose statement prepared by the Executive Board. Revisions were made. (See insert.) John asked representatives to speak to how this statement will shape their lives.

12-04 The Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting Calling statement was approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

June 11, 2004, 6 p.m. General Session

13-04 John Brawner led a discussion on how we can implement and be accountable for the approved Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting Calling statement. The following were suggested:

- Make it a priority to use *The Traveling Minute* (via Dan Jamison), the RMYM website (via Linda Kind), and the pulpit for information sharing.
- Look into the church health program, Natural Church Development, and leadership models.
- Make resources available to accomplish the calling.
- Address accountability issues.
- Direct boards to take appropriate responsibilities.
- Establish the schedule and content for Yearly Meeting to reflect stories of souls saved and lives transformed.

14-04 Kathi Perry, EFM missionary to Ireland and speaker at our Missions Rally on Saturday evening, was introduced.

The meeting was adjourned.

June 12, 2004, 9 a.m. General Session

- 15-04 The meeting opened with the reading of the approved RMYM Calling statement, a summary statement from the Executive Board on how it will address the Calling statement, and the minutes from the June 11, 6 p.m. General Session.
- 16-04 Gaylen Kinser read a statement of the Spiritual Life board's intent for implementing the Calling statement. (See insert.)
- 17-04 John Brawner led a discussion to add to implementation thoughts and further clarify the Calling statement. Dan Jamison suggested that we draft a list of queries or accountability questions.
- 18-04 The Executive Board was dismissed to draft a tentative implementation proposal.
- 19-04 Merle Clowe, presiding over the representatives, described the process for reviewing board reports in the absence of board presidents (see Minute 18-04). Reports were read by attendees and discussed as needed except for the Stewards and Christian Education boards' reports. Karen Fulbright was present to verbally amend the Christian Education report.
- 20-04 Karen Fulbright was present for discussion on her report. She expressed discouragement about lack of volunteers to help with camp and other items named in her written report. She stressed that no one was too old to help in this area because there are many levels of need. She highlighted mission field trips, a church holding VBS at Rough Rock, kids giving their lives to Christ at camp, and YouthQuake. RMYM future attendance at Youth Quake will be determined as more information about future organizers comes to light. Karen is excited about plans of our youth workers to get unreached kids to camps in large numbers. Karen announced that the Williamson Trust submission deadline for scholarships has been moved to August 1. She reported that a RMYM youth has been published in the Publishers of Truth contest.
- 21-04 The Cash Flow analysis was presented and reviewed.
- 22-04 The Statistical Report as of 12/31/03 was distributed. Errors noted: Defunct churches still are listed—Benkelman, Ft. Collins, Ordway, Plainview; two columns—GFAB and Missions Giving do not contain accurate information. A new chart will be prepared and may be printed in these minutes.
- 23-04 A question was asked about the Men's and Women's programs offered at Paonia. Esther Kinser provided information and encouraged other churches to use these programs if appropriate.
- 24-04 Clarification was requested on the EFM Director's report regarding Q people.
- 25-04 Clarification was given on how missionaries can be scheduled to come to churches for speaking engagements.

- 26-04 Merle Clowe presented the Memorial Report, noting Olen Ellis' memorial. Olen served as a superintendent of RMYM. It was asked if the other names of those on the report could be read aloud in an upcoming session before session's close of this Year Meeting. Clarification was given on when to submit memorials: the report is based on the calendar year just passed, but if a memorial for the present year is submitted, it is included.
- 27-04 Clarification was requested on the Quaker Ridge loan. The interest level was adjusted retroactively, as it was on other loans.
- 28-04 The need for rules for Web site content submissions was discussed. Individuals may contact John Rider until the details are made available; however, copies should be sent to Linda Kind and John Brawner.
- 29-04 Financial reports clarifications: The RMYM General Fund Giving by Local Churches, published for general information, represents giving up through May of 2004. RMYM Income Statement questions need to be directed to the Stewards board.
- 30-04 Friends Women report clarifications: It is the responsibility of the local groups to inform their churches about scholarships. The value of Friends Women was highlighted by Merle as an important entity of RMYM in ministering through missions.
- 31-04 The Where Grace Abounds report and Annual Activities report as given Mary Heathman upon the Executive Council's return to the chapel. Mary was asked and described a person whose life has been transformed for God by WGA.
- 32-04 The Barclay College report was mentioned. Printed copies were available in the absence of a college spokesperson.
- 33-04 The Nominating Task Force report was read and clarifications were given: Outreach will have a change in leadership model with co-chairs Ben Anthony and Carl Hunerwadel. Nominating Task Force names have different formats in the printed listing (unintentional) but names are correct even though term lengths are also not seen. A problem in Christian Education board was noted with the name of Jason Van Meter being deleted before his term was ended. A corrected report will appear in the Minutes. Whether criteria are in place for nominations was asked. It was explained that churches submit names for boards. If boards feel understaffed, they have the option to name members to their boards but must do it in the same timeframe as churches make submissions. They can also name whatever resource people they would like.
- 34-04 All reports were approved as printed or corrected above with the exception of the Stewards Report, which is to be submitted at a later date.
- 35-04 As the Executive board members returned, Merle Clowe read aloud the Executive Board Response to the Calling and Implementation Proposal. (See insert). John Brawner requested that Gaylen Kinser, representing Spiritual Life, speak to the mystery inherent in this process as we attempt to do something new for all of us.

- 36-04 Chuck Orwiler offered further explanation to the item in the proposal regarding pastors' communication in triads and queries, and he read aloud a draft of 21 queries, separated into the three streams of the Calling statement. The composition of the pastoral triads has not yet been determined.
- 37-04 John Brawner offered an explanation to the item 3 of the regarding leadership models, that no further details on that process have been delineated, and asked approval for the Implementation Proposal. Approved.
- 38-04 It was requested and approved that the words "renewed" and "renewal" as appropriate be added to the Calling statement following all statements about "souls saved and transformed."
- 39-04 Closing Minute – Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting of the Friends Church adjourned to meet again in June, 2005 at Quaker Ridge Camp, Woodland Park, Colorado.

The meeting was adjourned.

Note: The dates for RMYM Sessions have been set for June 2-5, 2005.

June 12, 2004, 2 p.m. General Session

- 39-04 Merle Clowe read the final revised version of the Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting Calling statement, and copies were distributed. (See [Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting Calling](#)).
- 40-04 The RMYM Budget for 2005 was presented by Galan Burnett. It was discovered that an insufficient amount of interest (\$3,066.87) was paid by Quaker Ridge for the loan from RMYM. It was proposed and approved that the interest amount will be waived and those funds applied toward the completion of Ethel Clark Conference Center. Approved.
- 41-04 John Brawner requested that the Memorial Report for 2003 be read aloud by Merle Clowe.
- 42-04 David Cordova presented the Quaker Ridge report. Camp Director Ryan Christian shared his outreach vision for 2005. He envisions two weeks of camp—one elementary age, one high school age. Two hundred free passes could be made available through the local churches for unsaved youth. Following the camp weeks, free passes for a 25 couples for a parent's weekend at camp could be made available. Quaker Ridge report approved.
- 43-04 Stewards Board President Galan Burnett presented the Outreach Board's proposal for a transfer of \$39,645.97 accumulated over the past several years from interest paid by Quaker Ridge on their loan back to the Quaker Ridge Board for the purpose of purchasing materials to be used toward the completion of the Ethel Clark Conference Center. The Outreach Board also desires that the Yearly Meeting come together to provide the labor necessary to install the materials purchased with these funds. Approved.
- 44-04 Gaylen Kinser gave a wrap-up of the miracle accomplished during this Yearly Meeting. We are headed in unity to a new place. It is a faith adventure.
- 44-05 Karen Piil read the outgoing Epistle. It was noted that the incoming epistles are available on the tables for review.

The meeting was adjourned, closing with the singing of the doxology.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Roberts
Recording Clerk