

**Minutes of the Plenary Sessions
of Friends United Meeting's
2011 Triennial
Wilmington, Ohio, July 28–30, 2011**

July 28, 2011

11-P-1 Kelly Kellum, presiding clerk, brought the session to order at 10:08 A.M. on July 28, 2011.

Those assembled sang “Change,” the song written for the Triennial. Brief announcements followed. Kelly Kellum then invited the body to enter a period of silent worship, holding especially the families of the two Earlham students who had been killed in a car crash the preceding night and the family of Joyce Ajlouny, dealing with the grave illness of one of its members. He then read the following opening minute:

Friends, welcome! We gather here on the 28th Day of July 2011, on the beautiful campus of Wilmington College, for the Triennial Sessions of Friends United Meeting. We are thankful to the staff and administration of Wilmington College, the members of the Wilmington Yearly Meeting, and the city of Wilmington for their generous hospitality extended to this global gathering of Friends.

The theme of these Triennial Sessions, “Transforming Lives,” is inspired by the words of the Apostle Paul, from Romans 12:2 (“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to discern and approve what God’s will is—God’s good, pleasing, and perfect will.”)

This theme speaks to the ongoing presence and work of God’s Spirit within us and through us. Pastor and author, Trevor Hudson, writes: “*Transformation into greater Christ-likeness comes as a gift to those generously open to the Holy Spirit.*” (Trevor Hudson, *A Mile in My Shoes*)

During these Triennial Sessions—in our worship, business, study, and fellowship together—may we be a people generously open to the Holy Spirit, and may we be empowered through God’s Spirit to carry forth the transforming work of Friends United Meeting.

The body then settled into prayerful waiting.

11-P-2 Kelly Kellum asked Sylvia Graves to introduce the Richmond and Kisumu staff members who were present—Terri Johns, John Muhanji, Kim Schull, Katie Terrell—and the field staff and volunteers—Joyce Ajlouny, Becky Barber, Lon Fendall, Eden Grace, Ann Riggs, and Lisa Stewart—of Friends United Meeting. Kelly Kellum thanked the FUM staff and introduced the officers of FUM: Cliff Loesch, assistant presiding clerk; Carol Holmes, recording clerk; James Mugalavai, assistant recording clerk; and John Norris, treasurer.

11-P-3 Kelly Kellum called the roll of named representatives and visitors in attendance (The names in italics were provided by the FUM office from information sent by yearly meetings. These Friends might not have been present for the actual roll call.):

Baltimore Yearly Meeting

Mary Lord

J. E. McNeil

Riley Robinson

Elizabeth Meyer

Wilmer Stratton

Jolee Robinson

Richard Liversidge

Robert Fetter

Joan Liversidge

Kenneth Stockbridge

Barbara Williamson

Bware Yearly Meeting

Written greetings were gratefully received from Bware Yearly Meeting and read by Kelly Kellum.

Greetings in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ. We are together in spirit as you gather for this triennial. Though we are unable to join you physically, we shall be spiritually enriched when we meditate what is in the theme Romans 12:2.

Your prayers will review our minds so that we discern what is the will of God—what is good, acceptable, and perfect. Indeed we shall be transformed and renewed by the will of God; Bware Yearly Meeting has fully joined friends of the world in Ohio in your powerful praise and worship.

Canadian Yearly Meeting

Jeffrey Dudiak

Marilyn Roper

Central Yearly Meeting

Chavakali Yearly Meeting

Elijah Mwavali Vieliza

Chwele Yearly Meeting

Cuba Yearly Meeting

Dikson Santiesteban Bosch

Adela Gonzalez-Longoria Escalona

East Africa (Kaimosi) Yearly Meeting

Allan Amiani Masere

Zibiah Amiani

Violet Ambiyio

East Africa (North) Yearly Meeting

Isaiah Wanyoni Bikokwa

John Losike Moru

James Idagiza Mugalavai

Elgon East Yearly Meeting

Alfred Wafula Muse

Enes Nafula Masika

Jamun Khaemba M. (Silas) Wanjala

Elgon Religious Society of Friends Lugulu

Nathan W. Sakari

Jacob Neyole

Charles Kataka Luvale

Great Plains Yearly Meeting

Ervin Stanley

Allison Stanley

Cliff Loesch

Indiana Yearly Meeting

Laura Key

John Norris

Don Garner

Sandy Davis

Doug Shoemaker

Aaron Hughes

Pat Shrock

Chris Sitler

Dave Phillips

Greg Hinshaw

Iowa Yearly Meeting

Rita Davis

Jennifer Talbot

Allen Smith

Karen Bauer

Robert Talbot

Ron Bryan

Mark Corbin

Ann Lee Nichols

Iowa Yearly Meeting (continued)

Craig Marshall
Victor White
Brenda White

Jamaica Yearly Meeting

Bevar Moodie
Linnette Moodie
Maureen Binns

Kakamega Yearly Meeting

Jared Wangia
Hellen Kulundu
Charles Lidala
Brigid Luseno

Lugari Yearly Meeting

Gladys Kamonya
David Zarembka

Malava Yearly Meeting

Nairobi Yearly Meeting

Churchill Kibisu
Zedekiah Anyonmi Engosi
Joy Kasandi Kelemba
Shadrach Biama

New England Yearly Meeting

Deana Chase
Ann Dodd-Collins
Susan Klein-Berndt
Macci Schmidt
Jay C. Smith
Leslie Manning
Carl Williams
Elizabeth (Minga) Claggett-Borne
Eden Grace
Marian Baker
Frederick Martin
Jonathan Vogel-Borne
Hannah Zwirner

New York Yearly Meeting

Christopher Sammond

Beatrice Beguin

Regina Haag

Caroline Webster

John Edminster

Gloria Thompson

Beverly Archibald

Carol Holmes

North Carolina Yearly Meeting

Kathy Kellum

Bill Eagles

Brent McKinney

Maryann McCullen

Clifford Winslow

Etta Florence Winslow

Myra Brady

Judy Ritter

Randy Quate

John Porter

Dwight Kendall

William Allen

Darren Allen

Gwen Headen

Peggy Long

Sarah Pickard

Brandon Godfrey

Tuloi Yearly Meeting

Zirah Amukuzi

Judy Chava

Uganda Yearly Meeting

Vihiga Yearly Meeting

Stanley Chagala Ngesa

Vokoli Yearly Meeting

Western Association

John H. Maurer

Anne McIntosh

Brian Young

Western Yearly Meeting

Wanda Coffin Baker

Marilynn Bell

Jan McVay

Wayne Carter

Kay Carter

John Heshelman

Earl Smith

Jim Crew

Peggy Hollingsworth

Dale Graves

Annie Glen

Rachel Hedges

Wilmington Yearly Meeting

Marvin Hall

Lois Hackney

Dana Dunsith

Doug Haag

Judith Sargent

Scott Knight

Jonathan Goff

Nancy McCormick

Kelly Kellum called the name of **Tongaren Yearly Meeting**, to be a full member yearly meeting by the end of this Triennial. Attending were:

Maurice Simiyu

Chrispinus Sifuna

Affiliated Organizations

Quaker Men

United Society of Friends Women International

Marilynn Bell

Patricia Shrock

Cooperative Organizations

American Friends Service Committee

Anna Crumley-Effinger

Belize Friends School

Candi Young

Christian Churches Together

Christian Peacemaker Teams

Brian Young

Friends Church Kenya

Jacob M. Neyole

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Matt Southworth

Sandy Rossman

Cassidy Regan

Friends General Conference

Dorothy Day

Friends Journal

Christine Snyder

Friends Peace Team

David Zarembka

Gladys Kamonya

Friends World Committee on Consultation Americas

Robin Mohr

Friends World Committee on Consultation International

Nancy Irving

Friends Fiduciary

Melissa Stoner

Holiness Friends Yearly Meeting (Bolivia)

Emma Condori Mamami

Mid-America Yearly Meeting

Michael Jay

Middle East Yearly Meeting

Joyce Ajlouny

Mission Board for Western Yearly Meeting

Joyce Hollingsworth

National Council of Churches of Christ

Northwest Yearly Meeting

Howard Macy

Pacific Yearly Meeting

Elaine Emily

Pendle Hill

Darlene R. Walker

Quaker United Nations Office

Right Sharing of World Resources

Southeastern Yearly Meeting

Lisa Stewart

Kelly Kellum read part of a written greeting from Southeastern Yearly Meeting:

Greetings to the 2011 Friends United Meeting Triennial from Southeastern Yearly Meeting.

Though our Yearly Meeting has minuted its withdrawal from Friends United Meeting, we still hold your missions and activities near and dear to our hearts. We continue to support the Kaimosi Hospital, Ramallah Friends School, and the ministry of Lisa Stewart through the Africa Ministries Office. Our prayers are with you as you gather in Ohio for a blessed Triennial.

World Council of Churches

11-P-4 Kelly Kellum announced the appointment of Triennial Committees. The Triennial Sessions Nominating Committee consisted of: Ron Bryan, Iowa Yearly Meeting; Wayne Carter, Western Yearly Meeting; James Mugalavai, East Africa (North) Yearly Meeting; Rich Liversidge, Baltimore Yearly Meeting; Brent McKinney, North Carolina Yearly Meeting; Jonathon Vogel-Borne, New England Yearly Meeting; Marvin Hall, Wilmington Yearly Meeting; Nathan Sakari, Elgon Religious Society of Friends Lugulu; Ervin Stanley, Great Plains Yearly Meeting; Regina Baird Haag, New York Yearly Meeting.

The New Business Committee consisted of: Allison Stanley, Great Plains Yearly Meeting; Earl Smith, Western Yearly Meeting; Don Garner, Indiana Yearly Meeting; Frederick Martin, New England Yearly Meeting; John Porter, North Carolina Yearly Meeting; Mary Lord, Baltimore Yearly Meeting.

The clerk called for volunteers to serve on the Message Committee. Those forthcoming were Leslie Manning, New England Yearly Meeting; Macci Schmidt, New England Yearly Meeting; Robert Wafula, Elgon Religious Society of Friends Lugulu; Martha Hinshaw Sheldon, Wilmington Yearly Meeting; Brigid Lusena, Kakamega Yearly Meeting, and Judy Chava, Tuloi Yearly Meeting.

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A period of announcements followed the business of the morning.

After a period of silent worship the clerk adjourned the morning session with prayer at 11:30 A.M. to reconvene at 1:45 P.M.

Kelly Kellum began gathering the afternoon session at 1:55 P.M. with the singing of “Sweet, Sweet Spirit.” Friends entered into silent worship.

11-P-5 Kelly Kellum introduced Sylvia Graves who gave the General Secretary’s report to the Triennial. Sylvia began by speaking of traveling in the area with Kenyan Friends before the Triennial. Sylvia continued by expressing regret that we did not participate more deeply with Southeastern Yearly Meeting as it discerned its relationship with FUM. She encouraged all to engage in conversation with Jeffrey Dudiak of Canadian Yearly Meeting. She also encouraged those who could do so to attend Canadian Yearly Meeting sessions, since FUM did not have the funds to send staff.

Sylvia extended thanks to Carl Williams for his work in his weekly devotions. She thanked Kelly Kellum for his three years of service and lifted up the quality of his leadership.

Kelly Kellum invited questions or comments from the body. A Friend from Indiana Yearly Meeting expressed gratitude for the service of Sylvia Graves coming at a point when the future seemed so uncertain. A Friend from New York Yearly Meeting expressed gratitude to Sylvia for coming to New York City and New York Quarter to give a human face to FUM and to show her spirit. The Friend believed it made a great difference. A Friend from Western Yearly Meeting appreciated the nurture that Sylvia brought to the office. A Friend from Tongaren thanked Sylvia for traveling a long way to visit Tongaren and asked God’s blessing on her new endeavors. Another Friend from Western Yearly Meeting spoke of what a sister Sylvia had been to his family and for bringing John Muhanji, a new brother in Christ, to Western Yearly Meeting. A Friend from Chavakali Yearly Meeting said that Sylvia was a true Friend. She would be missed, but he wished her well.

The body approved the writing of a minute of appreciation for Sylvia’s faithful service. Such a minute will be written.

11-P-6 Kelly Kellum introduced James Mugulavai, assistant recording clerk, who presented the high points of the General Board activity, and Cliff Loesch, assistant presiding clerk, who delivered the following written remarks:

I am Cliff Loesch from Great Plains Yearly Meeting and have had the privilege to serve as your assistant presiding clerk these past three years. It has been a joy to work with Kelly Kellum; he is doing a great job as clerk. I want to make a few brief remarks about my personal experience of being on the General Board this triennium. In particular, I want to mention the Executive Committee. In my view, this group has experienced a sense of deep community as we have worked together. It’s been great to be part of it. In spite of any differences we may have found among ourselves, we were able to develop high levels of trust and love (which is as it should

be). Though it is a larger group, of course, my experience with the full general board has been similar. It's been a joyful experience to be part of the board.

Three years ago we started this journey through the triennium with a letter of concern. The letter basically said that FUM is not functioning very well. Our structure is too cumbersome; we're too divided over certain issues and constant tension and dialog over our differences saps our energy and prevents forward movement; the letter said that at times the place of Christ in FUM seems unclear.

The executive committee had a retreat that Sylvia Graves hosted at her home to talk about the letter. Sometime later, the full General Board had a retreat in New York where we started with the question: Is there common ground for Friends United Meeting to continue in shared ministry together? This retreat was well attended by members of the General Board and the overwhelming answer given to that question was yes. We want to continue together. With that affirmation, the General Board set out to chart a way forward.

Concerning the three things I mentioned from the letter: There was plenty of affirmation that Jesus Christ is at the center of FUM. When it comes to the Richmond Declaration of Faith from 1887 everyone (or most everyone) can acknowledge it as part of our history. But part of our constituency finds difficulty in affirming some of the specific language of the Richmond Declaration today. Nevertheless we can all unite around our purpose statement that says at the end of it: "...where Jesus Christ is known, loved, and obeyed as teacher and Lord." And there are high levels of affirmation for the article called "The Christian Faith of Friends," that was written by Ben Richmond several years ago. Ben also relied on others as he wrote—and he brought several early drafts to the North American Ministries Committee for their input.

Concerning our structure, the General Board named a restructuring group that has met several times. They have brought some bold and imaginative ideas to the General Board. And they've been sent back to the drawing board a couple of times. So a new plan for structure has not yet fully emerged. But the restructuring group brings great energy to the whole system, and some kind of restructuring or streamlining is still needed—and the board has asked the group to continue working into this next triennium.

Concerning our differences, I have to tell you that we are still divided on some things. No one sees a way to change that. But many ask what would be the point in simply walking off in separate directions because of them? For some reason, God has placed us together. You could even say that our differences caused us to look at ourselves more deeply these past three years. And some are discovering that community is possible in spite of them. Hopefully all can see that Christ is with us as we make this journey together.

The things I've reported so far may not be seen as tangible achievements. On the other hand they are great accomplishments.

The board has been involved in many discussions and decisions regarding specific missions activities and partner projects—not to mention the calling of a new general secretary. You'll be hearing reports about many of these things during the course of the meetings and it does not seem necessary to list them all at this point.

I do, however, want to mention Southeastern Yearly Meeting. This particular spot in the agenda seems like the best place to mention correspondence we received during this triennium. After great deliberation and discernment, our friends in SEYM have felt it is time to withdraw membership from FUM—but they also hope to maintain ongoing partnership and fellowship to whatever extent possible. It was with sadness that we received this communication and we also hope that despite this change in status, we can foster and grow good relationships. We appreciate very much the letter of encouragement that we received from SEYM that was read in our opening business session this morning.

Overall these past three years were good years for Friends United Meeting and we hope that in the years ahead we will find ways to strengthen and streamline our organizational structure; that we will continue to love one another and work together despite some differences, and most of all that each of us will grow in Christ.

Kelly Kellum invited questions from the body. None was forthcoming. **Friends received the report from the General Board of Friends United Meeting.**

11-P-7 Kelly Kellum asked for and received approval of his drafting a response to Southeastern Yearly Meeting. A Friend from New England Yearly Meeting has visited these Friends and felt the faithfulness among them and she lifted up the international work they do. A Friend from Baltimore Yearly Meeting asked that language be included that many yearly meetings are struggling with their relationship with FUM and we hold them tenderly, too, even though these have chosen to remain. Two Friends asked that acknowledgement be given to Lisa Stewart's ministry. A Friend from Baltimore Yearly Meeting asked that we express they are always welcome among us and always welcome to join in our work.

Kelly Kellum thanked the body for its suggestions.

11-P-8 J. E. McNeil (Baltimore Yearly Meeting), clerk of the Finance Committee, brought good news and bad news to the Triennial. The bad news was the recession, which has necessitated cutbacks in budget lines and staff hours, but the good news was that compared with other organizations, FUM is doing well thanks to the good stewardship being practiced. Although we are certainly struggling, we are struggling less than others.

Kelly Kellum appealed to the body to find a way to be an advocate for the general fund and the restricted budget.

Sylvia reported with joy that FUM had received almost \$1 million in the past year in contributions. **Friends received the report of the Finance Committee.**

11-P-9 Katie Terrell presented the report of the Communications division. She spoke of celebrating 50 years of *Quaker Life*. Shari Veach, unable to attend the sessions, was vital to the work. Katie read all 513 issues of *Quaker Life* in order to create the 50th anniversary issue. Katie spoke of the two ongoing themes in *Quaker Life*: constant discussions of the Richmond Declaration and constant reaffirmations of our Christian identity. She suggested to Friends that perhaps it was time to get on with the work. She

spoke of using Tom Mullen's piece on Y2K as the ending of the anniversary issue and how, for all the blessings of the new technology, virtual community and virtual compassion fall short. She spoke of how reader responses tell her that real connections are made through articles in *Quaker Life*, how a reader in Iowa finds a Friend in North Carolina writing to his condition. Katie invited Friends to write for the forthcoming Triennial issue on their experiences here.

A Friend from Western Yearly Meeting thanked Katie for all her hard work. He spoke of how the list of the deaths of Friends caused him grief in every issue. He spoke of being on staff in the Richmond office when *Quaker Life* was born. In answer to a question about a possible electronic edition of *Quaker Life*, Katie responded that they are still experimenting with inexpensive solutions to an electronic edition. At present, it consists of a link to a downloadable PDF.

Kelly Kellum expressed appreciation for the work of Katie and Shari. **Friends received the report of the Communications division.**

11-P-10 Kelly Kellum advised the body that an adjustment in the agenda needed to be made. No Operations & Procedure changes were being brought to the body. Cliff Loesch then explained that the requisite 30-days' notice had not been given to the Triennial representatives so no changes to Operations & Procedure would be sought at this Triennial. Cliff proceeded to explain that therefore the body was being asked to consider these proposals as trials. (The Power Point used in the presentation is attached.)

The first proposal was that the Triennial Nominating Committee begin its work in February during the Triennial-Sessions' year so that it not be pressed to find officers in the space of a few days at the Triennial itself. These officers are the presiding clerk, two assistant presiding clerks, two recording clerks, a treasurer, and trustees.

Friends approved this trial.

11-P-11 It was recommended as a trial proposal that the Triennial Nominating Committee appoint two assistant presiding clerks, one in America and one in Africa, and two recording clerks, one in America and one in Africa. When a question of the need for an assistant recording clerk is raised from the floor an answer comes, also, from the floor, that this need could be met by allowing the recording clerk to co-opt people for assistance as needed.

Friends approved this trial.

11-P-12 It was recommended as a trial proposal that the Triennial Program Planning Committee become a standing committee of the triennial. As described on the Power Point:

The Triennial Program Planning Committee shall consist of one person appointed by each member yearly meeting. This person need not be a General Board member. The clerk of this committee shall be the appointee of the host Yearly Meeting. This committee shall meet during the time of General Board meetings, and at such other times and ways as may be necessary, to plan the program for the upcoming Triennial Sessions.

This committee would become functional at the October board meeting of the new triennium. A suggestion was made to clarify language about how and when the committee meets in terms of global partnerships.

Friends approved this trial.

11-P-13 Kelly Kellum invited Nancy Irving, general secretary of the FWCC World office, to bring a report from Friends World Committee on Consultation International (FWCCI). She introduced Margaret Fraser, recently retired from FWCC Section of the Americas, speaking for Nancy who was suffering from laryngitis. She invited all to come to the next gathering of the whole Quaker family, which is in Kenya in April 2012. She brought to Friends' attention that help for travel costs for Friends from Latin America and India, for example, is needed. Margaret introduced Robin Mohr, the new executive secretary of the FWCC Section of the Americas, who spoke about the theme of Salt and Light.

Friends received the report of our visitors from FWCCI.

11-P-14 Kelly Kellum introduced Greg Hinshaw the presiding clerk of Indiana Yearly Meeting. Greg Hinshaw formally invited Friends to come to Indiana to hold the 2014 Triennial.

Friends approved accepting the invitation to hold the 2014 Triennial in Indiana Yearly Meeting.

Kelly Kellum adjourned the session at 4:15 P.M. to reconvene at 6:30 P.M.

11-P-15 The evening session opened at 6:40 P.M. We were welcomed by the clerk of Wilmington Yearly Meeting, Doug Haag; by the mayor of Wilmington, David Raizk, and by the president of Wilmington College, Jim Reynolds.

Kenyan Friends sang.

An offering was collected.

Kelly Kellum introduced Sylvia Graves, who delivered the Triennial Keynote Address.

Sylvia Graves's words were received by Friends with deep appreciation. Friends adjourned for the evening.

July 29, 2011

11-P-16 Kelly Kellum opened the morning session at 10:14 A.M., July 29, 2011. He announced that a letter of greeting had been received from Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting. He asked visitors not at yesterday's roll call to introduce themselves. These visitors were:

American Friends Service Committee

Migwe Kimiema

Living Waters for the World

Suzanne Livingston

Quaker Hill Conference Center

David Terrell

Quaker United Nations Office

Andrew Tomlinson

Right Sharing of World Resources

Roland Kreager

Serving in Mission

Bob Carter

11-P-17 Kelly Kellum read from the Gospel of John and turned the session over to Terri Johns. Terri introduced the FUM Global Ministries-Transforming Lives Power Point (a PDF of this Power Point is attached) and began with Becky Barber of Belize Friends School who told two success stories about graduates of the school. Two years ago the school began accepting girls. The school has also added a two-year program and a guest visitor program, for example, an eye doctor.

Joyce Ajlouny of the Ramallah Friends School spoke of the 140-year-old-plus school, now a coed school. Two-thirds of students are Muslim and one-third Christian, living harmoniously together. About 20 percent are on financial aid and it is hoped that percentage can be raised. Students learn about the Testimonies and take conflict resolution and peace and justice courses. The school also accepts children with special needs: Down syndrome, Asperger syndrome, etc. The challenges faced are the military occupation and the Wall.

Eden Grace began by speaking of the Africa Ministries Office (AMO), opened in 2005. Because of the office in Kisumu, ministry has been unleashed. The office helps with leadership development. John Muhanji, Judith Ngoya, and Eden are project managers for programmatic work. Under the AMO umbrella is the Friends Theological College (FTC) and Eden introduced Ann Riggs, principal of FTC, assisted by Lon Fendall, academic consultant. Students study not only traditional theological subjects but also financial management and development. Lon Fendall spoke of faculty development and helping students become learners. An immediate challenge is that 50 percent of funding must now come from African sources.

Eden returned to speak of Kaimosi Hospital. Its mission is to help those in greatest need. There is no government health care in the immediate area, which is a poor one. Kaimosi Hospital's biggest competition is its own bad reputation. Kaimosi pays less than the government so there is chronic turnover in staff. The Adopt-a-Nurse program is invaluable to the life of Kaimosi.

Eden spoke of Lugulu Hospital, owned and operated by Lugulu Yearly Meeting. The new chapel has become the heart of Lugulu Hospital. It has some services that government hospitals don't. The Adopt-a-Bed program releases the poor from crushing health expenses.

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Eden turned things over to Isaiah Bikokwa who spoke of Samburu Friends Mission. The mission provides the Christian message and primary health care. It suffered in the post-election violence of 2007.

John Moru spoke of Turkana Friends Mission and its power to transform lives. After worshipping under a tree together, the missionaries found that the first need was water, so they are working on a well. The community has grown from 500 to 1,500.

Eden returned to speak of Lindi Friends School in Kibera slum, a terrible place to be a child. Because it is considered to be an unofficial settlement that is not supposed to be there, the government provides no services. The only services come from the churches. The teachers at Lindi receive whatever offering can be raised for them. The school becomes the body of Christ where hope can become known. About a year ago, the school was handed over to the management of Nairobi Yearly Meeting from AQUAVIS.

Chrispinus Sifuna spoke of Friends Church Peace Team. For many years, Kenyans had never seen war, but in 2007–2008 that changed when Kenyans began killing each other. The youth who are now active with the Peace Team were used in the violence but they have now been transformed. Knowing how the youth were part of the violence, the Peace Team created a peace curriculum for the schools. The secondary school curriculum is in place. The primary school is in development. In Kenya, violence comes with elections. The election of 2012 is coming. The peace team is determined to witness a peaceful collection.

Lloyd Stangeland of Iowa Yearly Meeting spoke of the SEEDS Farm project. Its purpose is to fund the peace curriculum. It involves loaning seeds for growing corn.

John Muhanji reminded Friends that the biggest outreach program is in Africa. John underlined all the work that FUM is doing in Africa. He spoke of John Moru's call to go to South Sudan, the newest nation in Africa.

Dale Graves announced from the floor that Quaker Men International has accepted a challenge to raise one million shillings, half of it from North American men, to raise a loan fund at FTC to help students earn their way through the school.

Becky Barber brought forward that, given the time differences among the missions, we are working around the clock; the sun does not set on Friends United Meeting.

A Friend asks John Moru to share about his Call to South Sudan. The Sudanese refugees saw the caring of the Quaker Church and asked if they could get such a church if they were ever able to go home. Sudan has about 200 tribes. John wants to find a particular tribe that the Quaker Church could reach.

A Kenyan Friend asked about Kenyans participating in Adopt-a-Nurse and Adopt-a-Bed programs. John Muhanji was glad for the question. Mission work is done by the West. America has money. It is time to begin discipling the leaders in Kenya into a process of giving in Kenya. John gave the example of a chicken kept in a cage for a long time. When you take the cage away, the chicken won't move until you kick it.

A Friend spoke of her visit to Cuba in the spring and spoke of the work of Cuba Yearly Meeting that she saw. Cuba Yearly Meeting was founded in 1900 by visitors from Iowa Yearly Meeting. It has nine monthly meetings, three mission churches, totaling 1,500 people who worship, with 532 members. A Friend from Cuba, Dikson Santiesteban Bosch, spoke of his gratitude to be at the Triennial. An important work that Cuba Yearly Meeting is doing is peace work because Cuba has much violence.

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A Friend reminds the body that there are so many things that visiting in person can bring. It's not just money.

A Friend asked about the Kakuma Refugee Camp north of Turkana. John Moru responded that the camp has about 43,000 people—Ethiopians, Somali, Sudanese. They opened a Quaker Meeting there. USFWI contributed some money for hymn books and Bibles. The Friend pointed out that these refugee camps are an opportunity to establish Friends churches in so many new countries.

Kelly Kellum thanked all the Global Ministries workers on behalf of the Triennial body. Friends rose to their feet in appreciative applause.

Friends received the report of Global Ministries.

The session adjourned to reconvene at 1:30 P.M. on Saturday, July 30, 2011.

The Johnson lecture was delivered by Randy Quate after dinner on Friday, July 29, 2011.

July 30, 2011

The session began with the singing of "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee."

11-P-18 The New Business Committee reported that no new business items had been brought to the committee's attention.

11-P-19 Kelly Kellum asked for approval of the minutes of the 2008 Triennial session. Friends approved.

11-P-20 The Friends Extension Corporation (FEC) Report was presented by Wayne Carter, clerk of the FEC trustees.

The Board of Directors of Friends Extension Corporation met at its annual meeting at the Friends United Meeting offices in Richmond, IN on June 27, 2011. Five of the nine board members were present.

Friends Extension Corporation was established by Five Years Meeting of Friends, now Friends United Meeting, in September of 1963, "To promote religious and educational purposes, and, more particularly to continue, develop, implement, and perpetuate the objectives of The Five Years Meeting of Friends, Inc., an Indiana corporation, in the specific area of Meeting and Church extension and establishment."

In the ensuing years, FEC was able to assist scores of meetings, churches, camps, and schools among Friends, both in the U.S. and in Kenya, in arranging financing for their establishment and expansion. However, in recent years, the costs of operation, particularly in satisfying governmental regulations among the states in which we were doing business, have made it increasingly difficult for us. Also, local financing has become increasingly available for local meetings, churches, etc. In giving attention to these circumstances, we have become

convinced that the time has come to plan toward dissolution of FEC, and have worked toward that goal.

Over the last few years, we have been able to pay off all our certificates of deposit except one large certificate, have ceased making loans to local meetings, churches, etc., and are presently servicing only three mortgages. Two of these are likely to be paid off completely by late this year, with none defaulting.

FEC has been in conversation with the FUM Trustees regarding the possibility of their assuming the assets and liabilities of FEC. By the end of this year, we expect this to be no certificates of deposit and only one mortgage, with a capital value of about \$90,000. We see this being added to the endowment of FUM to be used for the benefit of the ministry of FUM.

At that time, with the approval of Friends United Meeting, we will file final papers with the State of Indiana to dissolve FEC.

We believe FEC has had a distinguished ministry among Friends and has served a most valuable purpose. Since the time has come to close this chapter in the ministry of FUM, we give thanks to our most Gracious and Beneficent Lord God and pray a fruitful future for Friends United Meeting.

As stated in the report, the Friends Extension Corporation trustees asked for approval to file papers with the State of Indiana to dissolve the Friends Extension Corporation.

Friends approved.

11-P-21 Brent McKinney reported for the Triennial Nominating Committee. The new officers for the 2011–2014 Triennium are: Cliff Loesch, Great Plains Yearly Meeting, Presiding Clerk; Churchill Kibisu, Nairobi Yearly Meeting, Assistant Presiding Clerk (Africa section); Robert Secord, Western Association, Assistant Presiding Clerk (Americas section); Joy Kelemba, Nairobi Yearly Meeting, Recording Clerk (Africa section); Martha Hinshaw Sheldon, Wilmington Yearly Meeting, Recording Clerk (Americas section); Keith Kendall, Indiana Yearly Meeting, Treasurer.

The new Trustees for the 2011–2014 Triennium are: Don Garner, Indiana Yearly Meeting; Mike Fulp, North Carolina Yearly Meeting; Ruth Brindle Dobyns, Wilmington Yearly Meeting; Jared Wangia, Kakamega Yearly Meeting.

Friends approved these nominations.

Kelly Kellum lifted up the service of James Mugulavai, assistant recording clerk, in changing the face of the leadership of FUM and making FUM more truly a global partnership and asked that this recognition be minuted.

11-P-22 Cliff Loesch read the following report to the plenary session on the matter of the General Secretary of Friends United Meeting.

General Secretary Introduction

According to the Organization and Procedure guidelines, it is the responsibility of the Executive

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Committee to recommend to the General Board the name of the person to serve as the General Secretary for the next Triennium.

Minute Presented to the General Board:

After much prayer, and with careful consideration, the Executive Committee is pleased to announce that Colin Saxton is being recommended to the General Board to be the next General Secretary of Friends United Meeting. It is difficult to capture in words the spiritual unity among the members of the Executive Committee. Yet in our interviews and conversations with Colin about the future of Friends United Meeting, there has been—and is—a sense of God's peace and leading. The committee is drawn to his spiritual depth, authentic integrity, apostolic vision, and leadership graces. We believe God has gifted him with unique qualities that make him the right person for the work. We also believe that Colin will provide the leadership that Friends United Meeting needs during this critical time in its history.

For the past six years Colin served as the General Superintendent of Northwest Yearly Meeting, in addition he has sixteen years of pastoral experience and non-profit administration. During his tenure as superintendent he contributed to the vision that led to the restructuring efforts of Northwest Yearly Meeting. Colin holds a masters degree in Religion from Eastern Mennonite Seminary, with a focus in church history and theology. In addition, he has a Doctor of Ministry degree from George Fox University in Leadership and Spiritual Formation. While Colin comes to us from Evangelical Friends, he is well known and respected in the wider body of Friends. He is frequently invited to lead conferences and retreats. He was the keynote speaker at FUM's Emerging Leaders Conference and at the Friends Pastors' Conference in Uganda in December 2010. For the last twenty-six years he has been married to Janine and together they have four children: Hanna (23), Ellie (21), Amy (17), and Samuel (16).

Cliff advised the body that with the General Board's approval, granted February 11, 2011, Colin Saxton's service as General Secretary would begin on January 1, 2012. Sylvia Graves would continue as General Secretary until December 31, 2011.

Colin Saxton then addressed the Triennial body, speaking of his personal journey to and with Christ and of finding his home among Friends, of going through a period of disillusionment, and of reading Bonhoeffer's *Life Together*. His choice was to become cynical or to become open to what God wants to do—especially as a community. Can we lay down our agendas and do what God wants? He understood that his work was to create community wherever he was where Jesus Christ was known, loved, and obeyed.

He learned that if you want to change an organization, you need to change yourself—it's all you can control.

Colin said that he believed God is calling us to be a spiritual movement, not a more effective organization. How do we create an organization that our young people want to be part of?

He observed an odd thing: For the past year he's been reading Romans 12:1–2 every day, and here it is, the theme of the Triennial. He finds in the passage a doorway to a deeper baptism, learning how to give up control, to not push for his agenda, to live into transforming power.

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Because he is so unfamiliar with people in FUM, since his call, Colin has been using the list in the back of *Quaker Life* to pray for monthly and yearly meetings and pastors.

The Executive Committee of Friends United Meeting assembled around Colin Saxton. Ron Bryan offered vocal prayer, while the entire body gathered in prayers of blessing, upholding, and gratitude.

11-P-23 Kelly Kellum called to the stage the representatives of Tongaren Yearly Meeting as well as its parent Yearly Meeting, Elgon East Yearly Meeting. Cliff Loesch read to the body the following report on the acceptance process for Tongaren Friends:

Friends United Meeting General Board received a letter from Tongaren Yearly Meeting on 29 January 2010 requesting membership in Friends United Meeting. The full board of FUM took action on the request when it met at Mbanga Agricultural Training College near Webuye, Kenya, in July 2010 where they approved receiving Tongaren Yearly Meeting as an Associate Member.

Since that time, the Africa Ministries Office has been in communication with the leadership of Tongaren Yearly Meeting on several occasions. Tongaren Yearly Meeting leaders have received copies of the “Christian Faith and Practice in the Friends Church”, East African version of 2002. They have also received the FUM Membership Manual, and the document describing the Guidelines for Membership which includes rights and responsibilities that was approved by the General Board at the 2008 triennials. Friends United Meeting has also provided the Yearly Meeting with training on leadership, Faith and Practice, and Quaker process.

According to the procedural guidelines for membership in Friends United Meeting, a delegation consisting of the Presiding Clerk, General Secretary, AMO Director, and FUM Field Staff visited Tongaren Yearly Meeting on 19 January 2011. The delegation heard a comprehensive review of the history of the Yearly Meeting, discussed the purpose and priorities of Friends United Meeting, and reviewed the Rights and Responsibilities of Membership. During the consultation, Tongaren Yearly Meeting leaders gave evidence of their knowledge of history and years of experience among Friends. The visiting delegation was impressed by the honesty of individual leaders in speaking of the conflicts, struggles, and hurts which is an integral part of the Tongaren history.

Tongaren Yearly Meeting is registered under the Societies Act of Kenya and is accepted as members of Friends Church in Kenya and Friends World Committee for Consultation. Tongaren Yearly Meeting has demonstrated their willingness to participate in wider Friends activities. They have also shown evidence of supporting the ministries of Friends United Meeting and have already accepted membership responsibilities by participating in General Board meetings and contributing to the general fund.

As required by the procedural guidelines, a letter of support and recommendation has been received from Elgon East Yearly Meeting of Friends, which serves as the “mother” Yearly Meeting. Based upon this recommendation and noting that Tongaren Yearly Meeting is compliant with the responsibilities of membership and affirms its alignment with the mission

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and priorities of Friends United Meeting, the delegation recommends that Tongaren Yearly Meeting be accepted into full membership into Friends United Meeting.

With great joy this Minute was received and approved by Friends United Meeting General Board...

- Africa Section on 21 January 2011
- North America Section on 11 February 2011

And from the General Board North America February 11, 2011

11-GB-184 A written report is laid before the FUM board meeting in North America recommending that Tongaren Yearly Meeting be taken into full membership (see attached). The members of the General Board-North America considered the written report in front of them and approved accepting Tongaren Yearly Meeting into full membership.

Kelly Kellum asked the body to approve accepting Tongaren Yearly Meeting as a full member of Friends United Meeting. Friends approved. John Muhanji offered vocal prayer. Kelly Kellum presented Maurice Simiyu, clerk, and Chrispinus Sifuna, superintendent, with a plaque recognizing the date of Tongaren Yearly Meeting's acceptance as a full member of Friends United Meeting.

11-P-24 The Triennial Epistle Committee read the Epistle to Friends everywhere.

Greetings!

On a hot sunny day, on the lush, green, tree-lined campus of Wilmington College in Wilmington, Ohio, USA, over 350 Friends from 28 yearly meetings and Quaker organizations gathered for the 2011 Friends United Meeting Triennial Sessions from July 27-31. We were warmly welcomed by Wilmington Yearly Meeting, greeted with an open house of the Meriam R. Hare Quaker Heritage Center, given tours of the beautiful historic campus and other sites in the area.

The theme of the Triennial, *Transforming Lives*, was drawn from Romans 12:1-2: "Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you." (The Message) The theme was reflected again and again in worship-sharing, devotions, business sessions, and lectures.

In worship-sharing and devotions, we were inspired to preach the Gospel boldly with love, to position ourselves so God can transform us and use us in the transformation of others. Whether we are wrestling like Jacob, or metamorphosing like a butterfly, we are called to be fully used by God.

The reports in the business sessions demonstrated both the transformations that FUM and its programs have undergone, as well as those that are still needed. Do we have enough in common to stay together? The answer is yes, because the commonness is the work we are all called to do. The report of the General Board described how the differences among Board members helped them examine themselves and find community, so that FUM can move forward with the work that God has given us.

The efforts of field staff in global ministries is a ministry to the West as well. Our global ministry has affected the work of God in three dimensions: education in places like Belize, Ramallah and Lindi, Kenya, gives students hope and tools; health care at hospitals in Kaimosi and Lugulu tend to the physical needs of people; and evangelization in places like Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya, and soon South Sudan, minister to their spiritual needs. The Friends Church Peace Team reminds us that we do not know the meaning of peace until it is taken away. The restructuring and changes in FUM are in response to the growth of these ministries in Africa. Despite the global recession, we celebrated the fact that the support of our global ministries continues. We also celebrated the leadership of Sylvia Graves and Kelly Kellum, the gifts of our staff, the 50th anniversary of *Quaker Life* magazine, and the presence of Cuban Friends. We welcomed Tongaren Yearly Meeting into the fellowship of FUM and Colin Saxton as General Secretary. We regret that visa difficulties once again kept other Friends from us.

The Johnson Lecture speaker challenges us to reflect on what stifles and stimulates our spiritual growth. It is a sign of spiritual maturity to embrace all that Jesus is, not to choose and select the parts of Jesus that feed our likes and dislikes.

The challenge posed in *Quaker Life's* first issue remains: Not are we good enough for our parents, but rather, are we good enough for our children? We are a Christian organization based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, and we desire to call our own membership to a deeper relationship with God, to continually transform our hearts and minds to support the work of FUM. We pray to be willing to change our selves, our meetings, and may God change us as needed.

Mirembe!

The Epistle was approved.

Kelly Kellum adjourned the session to reconvene after dinner.

Gathering Worship began at 6:45 PM. The children's program presented a play about the imperfections of the Perfect Kingdom.

11-P-25 Kelly Kellum introduced the Youth Representative, who read the Youth Epistle:

To Friends around the world:

On Wednesday we arrived at Wilmington College after coming from many different places. We signed in and learned that the theme of the Triennial was "Transforming Lives." The first day, Sylvia Graves shared a transformative experience in her life with us which we enjoyed very much.

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On Thursday we learned about Quakers who transformed history by visiting the Freedom Center. We also attended a Cincinnati Reds baseball game in extreme heat, and we cooled off by eating cool treats. On Friday we toured the Wilmington College campus and we learned about Quaker activities around the world today by visiting the Quaker Heritage Center. We served food at Your Father's Kitchen, which helped us understand how we can serve and share the Inner Light with others.

We also had visitors including John Muhanji and Melissa Paegler. John taught us about showing others how God is always there, even in the roughest of times. We joined together and sang a song in Swahili. Melissa took a different approach, through a talk about Tennessee's heritage and how Tennessee came to be a part of Wilmington Yearly Meeting.

Every night we included the traditional campfire and participated in the morning events with the adults. Our five days were very educational and inspirational. Thanks to all the adults with FUM. To all of our speakers, our directors and coordinators, and all of the wonderful people involved in our experience, we thank you very much.

The Epistle was approved.

11-P-26 Kelly Kellum asked for applause for both Wilmington College and Wilmington Yearly Meeting.

A Minute of Appreciation was approved for Wilmington Yearly Meeting. Kelly Kellum presented a plaque to Doug Haag, the clerk of Wilmington Yearly Meeting.

The body approved a Minute of Appreciation for Wilmington College. Kelly Kellum presented a plaque to Jim Reynolds, the president of Wilmington College.

The Triennial Chorus sang "How Can I Keep from Singing?," "Teach Me to Stop and Listen," and "Fresh Winds of the Spirit." The body sang "Change" with percussion supplied by the chorus. A collection for the work of FUM was received.

11-P-27 Kelly Kellum turned the session over to Emma Churchman of Earlham College who spoke of some of the work of the college: the Discover Thyself Web site and the Discern-o-Matic to help teenagers get in touch with what's going on for them; and Quaker Fellows, a new four-year scholarship program. Emma extended thanks to the Wayne Carter family for the sponsorship of the lecture and introduced B. Welling Hall who delivered the Earlham College Peace Lecture.

11-P-28 Kelly Kellum offered into the profoundly gathered silence that followed Welling Hall's address and prayer, the following closing minute:

As we close the 2011 Triennial Sessions of Friends United Meeting, we celebrate the vision, the faith, and the dedication of those Friends who more than a century ago founded what is now Friends United Meeting. We celebrate also the Christian fellowship that reaches across oceans, continents, and cultures to bind us together in one family. Yet, amidst this celebration, we acknowledge that Friends United Meeting is facing new and significant organizational challenges, declining financial support, and what seem to be irreconcilable differences between some of our constituents.

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This Triennium began with deep concerns expressed regarding the structure and composition of Friends United Meeting. The General Board appointed the Restructuring Committee to develop recommendations that would enable Friends United Meeting “to more effectively live out our statement of purpose.” While external organizational changes are essential, and recommendations are forth coming, deeper transformational changes are required of Friends to ensure a vital future for Friends United Meeting.

In light of this hope, the theme for the new Triennium is: “A Great People to Be Gathered.” Friends are challenged to prayerfully envision the members, ministries, and resources of Friends United Meeting as part of a fresh movement of God’s Spirit.

As the winds of God’s Spirit blow among us may we be moved:

- From a Historic Institution to a Spiritual Movement;
- From Institutional Maintenance to Ministry and Mission;
- From Adversarial Posturing to Strategic Positioning;
- From Representing yearly meetings to Equipping and Energizing yearly meetings;
- From Friends United Meeting membership as a Privilege to membership as Responsibility;
- From Doing mission work on Behalf of Friends to Enabling Friends to Do mission work;
- From a mind-set of Scarcity to Abundance;
- From attitudes of Fear and Mistrust to Freedom, Respect, and Mutual Love.

From its beginning Friends United Meeting has repeatedly affirmed its orthodox Quaker Christian roots, while including a spectrum of faith, practice, and cultures. Our roots are deep and strong as we seek unity in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Friends United Meeting has an opportunity in this present moment to proclaim a powerful, life-changing message to the world, that Jesus Christ is here, now—available to us all. Our testimonies of simplicity, peace, equality, community, and integrity speak to a world: hungering for an end to war, violence, and the polarized politics of our day; desiring healing of our environment and healing of fractured relationships, and needing the affirmation of a life lived with God at the center.

There are any number of outreach programs and evangelistic techniques available to us. However, all these techniques will have little or no effect until we can tap into the power of the Holy Spirit. That same Spirit prompted George Fox to climb to the top of Pendle Hill, where “the Lord let me see in what places he had a great people to be gathered.” Friends, those places are right where you and I live. Those people are you, me, the members of our monthly and yearly meetings, and our neighbors. In the power of the Holy Spirit, Friends United Meeting can spark a renewal, a global movement to “gather people into fellowships where Jesus Christ is known, loved, and obeyed as teacher and Lord.”

At the beginning of these sessions I noted that transformation comes as a gift to those generously open to the Holy Spirit. I close the 2011 Triennial Sessions of Friends United Meeting with this simple encouragement: **Go forth as a Great People Gathered in Christ, Generously open to the Holy Spirit.**

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Kelly Kellum, presiding clerk of the 2011 Triennial, concluded with the words: As the Spirit gives you liberty, you are dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Holmes
Recording Clerk