On Wed, Nov 17, 2021 at 10:26 AM Melissa Preast via WKFM < > wrote:
Dear Friends,

I am grateful to those who attended the second hour on Nov 14 which provided an opportunity for Friends to share what was on their heart about their experiences related to race.

In preparation for the called meeting for business, Friends are encouraged to continue their personal work of discernment by reviewing shared material including information from recent rep meetings, other SAYMA Monthly Meetings and committees, and YM 50. The called meeting is intended, in part, to hear Friends input on the State of SAYMA related to the relationship with the SAYMA Uplifting Racial Justice (URJ) Committee and support for SAYMA minute YM 50-46.

Although the worship sharing by Friends on Nov 14 did not center the topic of SAYMA and URJ relationships, Friends recognized the need to take a more engaged approach to matters of understanding anti-racism topics including conflict transformation. Friends were eager to understand how they could take actions that could make our Meeting more welcoming. That was part one of our exploration. Part two will be a called meeting moving us from awareness to accountability as lead by Friends curiosity.

As a result of the Nov 14 2nd Hour the Committee for InterRacial Well Being and Restorative Justice felt led to request a called meeting for business on Nov 21, to test a minute of response. Please consider the below queries in advance. Responses from both Meetings (the second hour and the Called Meeting for Business) will shape the Meeting’s response to FCRJ which will also be sent to the Clerk of SAYMA as an open letter.
1. Is WKFM committed to engaging in the process of becoming a more anti-racist faith community? This could be financial, spiritual, volunteering, or providing opportunity.

2. Are Friends willing to do the work, often without defined goals, remaining in community with compassion, curiosity, and vulnerability?

3. Is the meeting committed to helping SAYMA become an anti-racist faith community by engaging in events and training as recommended by FCRJ and or other committees? This could be financial, spiritual, volunteering, or providing opportunity or other contributions.

4. Draft expectations for SAYMA to be used in the formation of the Clerk’s Letter
   A. Minutes should be read and approved in the face of the meeting.

   B. Narratives of events should be reduced to context only and if they are not read in the face of the meeting they should be omitted.

   C. SAYMA Leadership roles, including all clerks, should consider the FGC query “how does this decision support our commitment to becoming an anti-racist faith community” for each decision made.

   D. The decision-making process should be transparent and done in the face of the meeting or if needed, with the help of the Clerk’s Advisory Committee not in small groups of like-minded Friends.

   E. SAYMA should participate in an institutional assessment on anti-racism, such as the one from Crossroads used by FGC, conducted by Friends outside SAYMA on a recurring basis. Assessment results should be used to generate commitments to action. Accountability should be demonstrated through annual reporting within the State of the Yearly Meeting Report.

Please join us and contribute your voice in shaping our actions and response to the request for our input.
Through discernment we will experience Light,

Melissa Preast
Clerk, West Knoxville Friends Meeting
Dear Clerk,

During the recent 2nd Hour on November 14, we were moved by Friends’ hunger to grow as an anti-racist faith community. We believe that the Meeting is ready to provide input to the Friends Center on Racial Justice regarding the conflict transformation process proposed in a Minute by SAYMA, regarding SAYMA and SAYMA-URJ. As Co-Clerks of the Committee on InterRacial WellBeing and Restorative Justice, we ask the Clerk of Meeting to convene a Called Meeting for Business to develop a Minute expressing our yearning to move forward.

Taylor Brelsford

Lori Campbell

Co-Clerks

Committee for InterRacial Wellbeing and Restorative Justice