

**Piedmont Friends Fellowship**  
**Meeting of the Representative Body**

February 24, 2008

Durham Meeting

Patricia Sebeens	New Garden Friends
Sheila Bumgardner	Charlotte Friends Meeting
Ann Lennon	(Program Director for the American Friends Service Committee)
Lyle Adley-Warrick	Raleigh Friends Meeting
Tom Kagan	Raleigh Friends Meeting
David Bailey	Friendship Friends Meeting
Karen VanHauser	Spring Friends
Marian Beane	Charlotte Friends Meeting
John Young New	Garden Friends Meeting
Terry Mehlman	Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
Jane Norwood	Rockingham Friends Meeting
Karen McKinnon	Durham Friends Meeting
Debbie Parker	Durham Friends Meeting
Wendy Michener	Fayetteville Friends Meeting
Virginia Driscoll	New Garden Friends Meeting

Virginia Driscoll, Clerk of Piedmont Friends Fellowship, called for a moment of silence as the Representative Body Meeting gathered in the Historic Meetinghouse of the Durham Friends Meeting, Durham, North Carolina on February 24, 2008. The first order of business was to announce upcoming events in the life of the Piedmont Friends Fellowship.

**Announcements:**

John Young announced the upcoming Peace Conference entitled: **TIME TO BREAK THE SILENCE: SOUTHERN CHURCHES AND WAR**

April 4-5, 2008

New Garden Friends Meeting

801 New Garden Road, Greensboro, NC

This conference will be sponsored by New Garden Friends Meeting, First Friends Meeting, Deep River Friends Meeting, Spring Friends Meeting, Winston Salem Friends Meeting, Rockingham Preparative Friends Meeting, Charlotte Friends Meeting, and Friendship Friends Meeting. The conference is commemorative of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King and the 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's powerful speech *Beyond Vietnam- A Time to Break the Silence* at Riverside Church in New York City on 4 April 1967.

John gave an overview of the events of the weekend: "With workshops, panels, and a concluding concert by John McCutcheon, the conference will examine how the spirit of war has corrupted the gospel of Christ and will consider how the church can seek repentance and return to being true followers of the Prince of Peace.

John advised the PFF representatives that persons interested in hospitality need to contact New Garden Friends Meeting.

The full program of this event is appended to these minutes.

The second announcement was from Ann Lennon of the AFSC. Ann was filling in for Sally Ferrell to share resources around the topic of counter recruitment. Ann was particularly interested in sharing these resources at the upcoming annual PFF retreat.

Virginia Driscoll reminded the gathered representative body members of the efforts to keep the PFF website current which should include posting notices of upcoming events such as the Peace Conference. The PFF webFriend caretaker is [m\\_hubbe@ncsu.edu](mailto:m_hubbe@ncsu.edu) and one should remember to proof documents carefully before sending them to him. The website is [www.rtpnet.org](http://www.rtpnet.org).

The third announcement was that of the Friends General Conference Gathering June 28-July 5th entitled *Courageously Faithful* in Johnston, PA. There will be both electronic and paper registration in the next few weeks.

### **Financial Aid from PFF:**

What is the process for financial aid from PFF for Friends who want to attend the Gathering? FGC encourages cooperative funding: one first asks the Monthly Meeting for financial support and FGC will match that funding. The check is made payable to the Gathering and is given to the person who is attending the Gathering. To obtain financial support from PFF to attend the Gathering, the Friend should ask the PFF representative to make a request to both the Clerk and Treasurer of PFF for funds. PFF will provide \$100 per individual and \$150 per family. FGC also offers first time scholarships. PFF Representative Body members are encouraged to inform their meetings about the Gathering and the financial support for attendance.

Virginia wanted to be clear about travel support. PFF supports travel in several ways: 1) PFF supports its representatives to FGC Central Committee 2) PFF supports Friends who feel led to further spiritual life such as the School of the Spirit, Pendle Hill, etc., who are not necessarily representing PFF. Recently funds were given to John William Sweitzer-Lamme to travel to Mt. Verde (the 1930's Quaker settlement of Friends from Alabama to Costa Rica. John William's trip to Mt. Verde seemed to be the more spiritual development. There is intent to share this trip with PFF although the opportunity has not yet occurred. John William is now requesting funds to attend Young Quakers. Friends approved. Virginia noted that this request falls in the designated categories, but she is also clear that she can appropriate funds if she feels that there is a leading with the request. If the travel has not yet occurred, PFF can send along a traveling minute with the individual who has requested support from PFF.

### **Updating PFF Listserve:**

The clerk passed around a list of people who are the official representatives for PFF Meetings to edit if corrections are necessary. The listserv of the representatives to PFF is maintained by Terry Mehlman. There have been a few difficulties with this listserv for which we are appreciative. Please note to remove Russ McCarter from New Garden from the list. Virginia Driscoll will request in March an update how many people are in the meeting to provide the yearly count of Members and Attenders. FGC has requested the demographics of the PFF membership however the meeting defines its numbers ( active/resident/members and active attenders/associate members).

## **The annual PFF Gathering Report from the Site Committee:**

The \$6.00 registration fee is waived if the registration is in by April 11<sup>th</sup>.

The cost will be \$45 food and lodging per adult for two nights or 35.00 for one night and three meals. Friends approved the cost of the PFF retreat.

The committees will be:

**Child care and children's program.** Karen VanHausen

The theme: *Building Community within PFF and within Meetings* Tom Kagan

**Community Committee** Convener. Doug Jennette facilitator

**Advancement and Outreach** - Sheila Bumgardner and Jan Blodgett

Tom will talk with both Jan and Doug about this topic. The program needs to come together in the next two or three weeks in order to have in a flyer and a website. Jan has done the templates in the past. Description of the program and any expenses.

Friday evening intergenerational activity led by facilitator.

Sat. morning session will be overall session to discuss *How do we build community within PFF?*

Sat. afternoon session will be the time to discuss the query: *How do we do this in our meetings?*

**Program Leadership and Design:** Sheila Bumgardner and Tom and Jan can design the workshops. Jane and Melissa will send a request to the FGC bookstore to ship books to the annual PFF meeting.

**Agenda and Time line:** April 25<sup>th</sup> -27<sup>th</sup>.

Time set aside for special interest groups: Ann Lennon and Sally Ferrell with AFSC will lead a general discussion, and Susan Lees may be able to report about the Costa Rica travel.

**Music and Dancing:** David Bailey. Friends approved the funds to pay for a caller if David McGinnis is not available

**Registration and Housing: Chapel Hill Meeting.** Terry Melman will organize with support from Jane Norwood.

**Food:** Durham Friends Meeting: coordinating food and buying food.

**Booktable and Display:** Jane Norwood (Melissa Meyer and Ted Edgerton). Melissa has a system.

**Childcare Youth Program** for ages 3-5, 6-8, 9-11 will be the responsibility of Spring and Charlotte Friends Meeting. Sat. am pm until 3 pm, Sunday am through worship.

**Babies** David Bailey will contact Soledad and Cathy, Friendship Meeting:

**Middle School** New Garden and Chapel Hill Meetings

**High School** Chapel Hill Meeting, Cathy David and Jeff Brown

The Medical Release Form must be included with Registration if parents are not attending. Children have to have a sponsoring family and a medical release form with parental signatures.

**Clean Up:** Friendship Meeting and Raleigh Meeting

Friends approved a Representative Meeting following business meeting and lunch if time permits before Camp New Hope charges for an additional day. If we have to leave by two, we will move to Chapel Hill Meeting.

## **NCYM(FUM) / PFF Relations Committee:**

The next item on the agenda was the report from the NCYM-FUM / PFF relations committee attended by Terry Melhman. For continuing the dialog with NCYM-FUM,

Terry, Tom Kagan, and Ron and Elizabeth Osborn the representative body accepted their report with a minute of thanks. PFF will strive to stay in relationships with other meetings are to search for suggestions on how best to do this. Suggestions included:

- 1) Picnic in May (Elizabeth Osbourne and Terry Mehlman)
- 2) Support leadings by people within leading by NCYM (Rockingham and Spring and Charlotte.) Friends who feel isolated within their own meetings need nurture and continued support from PFF.
- 3) NCYM/FUM Friends Disaster Service within opportunities for service and dialog such as Wiley Shore trips to different places through the NCYM/FUM office.
- 4) Attend the workshop within the April Peace Conference: *I am Right and You and Wrong workshop*
- 5) Encourage young adult friends to attend a workshop at Earlham (insert piece.) and other workshops in intraQuaker gatherings.
- 6) Gathering of Friends of Diversity FWCC-concept Gathering across NC.

**Report from the Nominating Committee:** (Sheela Repoley, Wendy Michener, David Bailey, and Elizabeth Osborn.)

This committee was not prepared to submit a report at this time, and their work continues. Elizabeth needed to resign from the nominating committee. Virginia Driscoll will retire in April as Clerk, thus individuals within PFF need to discern who will be the next Clerk. People need to look amongst their membership for those who would be willing to servc as Clerk for the next 3 years. The person needs to have good clerking skills or be willing to learn. Art Larrabee leads a clerking workshop at Pendle Hill. The new clerk will be named at the annual meeting. In addition, the third representative to FGC is still under discernment.

**Treasurer's Report:** Wendy Michener,

David Bailey will contact Morehead City to determine if they want to be affiliated with PFF. Greenville Meeting is now just associated with NCYMC and should be removed from PFF Meetings list.

New Meetings include: Catawba Valley in Hickory, NC under the care of Charlotte Friends, Upstate Worship Sharing Group (PFF needs to confirm its contact, Doris Wilson), Spring Friends.

On the treasurer's report the date Spring /Fall 2006 needs to be changed to 2008. The balance for the spring 2008 will be due following the meeting. Wendy has the approval to purchase new Quicken software that works for her Macintosh computer.

**FGC Ministry and Nurture Committee:**

They invite interested clerks of ministry and nurture committees to come to the Powell House for a Ministry and Nurture Conference, Reservations should be in by March 5<sup>th</sup>. The title of the conference is: *Ministry and Nurture within the Friends Meeting*. Michael Green, Chapel Hill Meeting, has done this in the past, so PFF Representatives should ask their meetings if anyone is able to attend. The date is April 18-20<sup>th</sup> in New York Powell House, Old Chatham, New York. Look for emails from Elaine Crowdermilk – there are

two places for PFF. FGC take care of food and lodging and PFF will pay for travel. Virginia will approve. No cost. There is a questionnaire to go with this. Whoever goes will not have direct answers from PFF but from the individual meeting, but it would be hoped that they would return to PFF and share the experience.

**Additional Business:**

Wendy announced the Peace March in Fayetteville – a (50) battalion of Iraqi vets will be there for a week to learn how to work throughout the universities. 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of April. March 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> in Washington, DC there is a public protest led by Iraq Vets Against the War. IVAW website: downstreaming available. Wendy also announced that renovations have begun at Quaker House.

The Representative Body Meeting concluded after a brief period of silent worship.

Karen McKinnon, Recording Clerk

**Appended Program:**

**TIME TO BREAK THE SILENCE: SOUTHERN CHURCHES AND WAR**  
April 4-5, 2008  
New Garden Friends Meeting

**FRIDAY, April 4**

7:00 PM

Logie Meachum and the Persimmon Grove AME Gospel Choir

7:30

Max Carter opens the conference

Logie Meachum and Linda Whisnant present dramatic readings

**Panel of respondents**

Anita Thompson, Pastor of Persimmon Grove AME Church

Charles Hawes, retired Chaplain of St. Mary's House

Deborah Suess, Pastor of First Friends Meeting

Open Discussion

**SATURDAY, April 5**

9:00 AM

Unprogrammed Worship in meeting room

Coffee in Friendship Hall

9:45

Gather in worship room

10:00 - 11:00

*1st Morning Workshop Session Choices*

1. The Peace Testimony Through the Eyes of North Carolina Yearly Meeting: Hugh Spaulding,

Pastor of South Plainfield Friends Meeting

2. Truth in Recruitment: Pam Schwingl, Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

3. The Role of Torture in the War on Terrorism: Joan Walsh of North Carolina Stop Torture Now

4. Quaker House: Work in the Trenches: Chuck Fager, Director of Quaker House  
11:15 - 12:15

*2nd Morning Workshop Session Choices*

5. Conscientious Objectors in 2008: Curt Torell, Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

6. Veterans for Peace Share Their Journeys: Ken Ashe and Tim Pluta  
American Friends Service Committee's Orita Peace and Justice Program

7. The Economic Cost of War: Ann Lennon and Debra Dillard

8. Moving Beyond I'm Right You're Wrong - Communicating Effectively When In Conflict:

Barton Parks, Professor of Justice and Policy Studies at Guilford College

12: 30 PM

Lunch served by Eric and Sarah Baker. Donations for this simple meal will be welcomed.

1:30 - 2:30

Workshop led by John McCutcheon

The Arts and Social Change: Using Culture as an Organizing Tool: John McCutcheon

2:45 – 3:45.

***JOHN MCCUTCHEON CONCERT*** (\$10 per person, \$5 students)”