

Piedmont Friends Fellowship

**Representative Body Meeting
March 16, 2014 – 1:00**

New Garden Friends Meeting, Greensboro, NC

Attending

John Hunter
Marian Beane
Karen Garraputa
Ken Bradstock
Debbie Parvin
Joan Tillotson
Linda Hunter
Virginia Driscoll
John Carderelli
Karen McKinnon
Tom Kagan
Annette Broadwell
Jeff Brown

Meeting

Durham
Charlotte
New Garden
Fancy Gap
New Garden
Friendship
Durham
New Garden
Salem Creek
Durham
Raleigh
Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill

The meeting opened after a period of silent worship.

Friends had no comments on the Minutes of the Representative Body Meeting on January 19, 2014.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Kagan reported that total cash and bank accounts amounted to \$15,879.91 as of 3/15/2014. The Treasurer's Report is attached.

He shared preliminary figures from the Annual Retreat. Income is \$2,270.25 income from the retreat. Expenses are not compiled, but the largest expense is expected to be approximately \$1,170 for motel rooms.

John Hunter will review past minutes of the Representative Body to find a minute to consider changing banks for PFF accounts. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Regarding "askings from meetings," John Hunter explained that Meetings choose the amount that they contribute. This may be a topic for a future meeting.

Ad Hoc PFF Website Committee

John Hunter, Ken Bradstock, and Tommy Kagan met to discuss the need to find a solution for the PFF website now that the website will no longer be maintained on its current server location. The group, with advice from Bob Passmore, concluded that the Quaker Cloud offering is more complex and capable than PFF needs at this time. The Quaker Cloud is interactive, secure, and appropriate for a wide range of content and interaction. A more passive website for information and suitable links is currently adequate. Friends know people who can set up PFF on a simple, free website that meets PFF requirements.

The ad hoc committee recommends a new website with information transferred from the current site. Posting information will be easy for multiple Friends to manage.

PFF appreciates Raleigh Friends Meeting for hosting the PFF website for so many years. John will write and send a letter to Raleigh Friends Meeting to convey PFF's thanks to Marcia Soward and Marty Hubbe for their work over many years.

Report of the Yearly Meeting Formation Committee (Marian Beane)
The committee's report is attached.

The Yearly Meeting Formation committee recommends that the name of PFF be changed to "Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Yearly Meeting." This will be seen as one body by Friends General Conference. The Yearly Meeting will be independent in other regards. Any Meeting that joins the Yearly Meeting will be affiliated with the Fellowship.

The Representative Body approved the name change.

Review of Annual Meeting Just Concluded

Fancy Gap Friends confirmed that Fancy Gap young Friends, ranging from high school through college age, enjoyed themselves. Virginia Driscoll shared that Ellen Kepchar, New Garden Friends Meeting Religious Education, was delighted with the clean-up and the care of PFF for the facility. Friends confirmed that the New Garden Friends Meeting venue worked very well for the retreat. The kitchen facilities were particularly good for cooking and cleaning. Friendly adult nurturers did a fine job. Karen McKinnon liked the programming, including the main workshop and the selection of offerings at 3:30 PM on Saturday.

Friends concluded that Friday evening did not go as planned. With time constraints, the youth missed their opportunity to do what they had planned between the end of dinner and the beginning of the Granny D performance. Friends observed that an activity to connect on Friday has value. It is challenging to engage young Friends on Friday evening. Having it organized by youth helps achieve intergenerational goals. Youth appreciated the space as reported in the Annual Business Meeting. A performance to draw attendance on Friday has value (52 attended the 8:00 PM show), but starting an activity earlier in the weekend has value, too.

Friends added that:

- Friday evening transportation is challenging for timely arrival.
- More people from Charlotte participated this time given the more accessible location compared to Durham.
- The campfire went very well.
- The motel worked well for most people.
- The cemetery tour was an excellent way to remind us about Quaker history.
- Some of the New Garden youth were involved in the reenactment of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse on Saturday (for the first time ever) and were not available for the retreat.

Ideas for the next annual retreat:

- scavenger hunt

- avoid the ACC men's basketball tournament weekend if in Greensboro (not returning until 2020).
- service project for youth program for the same weekend.

Friends acknowledged that successful retreat planning and execution by a few Friends is a mixed blessing. Friends are urged to get more involved for the next retreat.

Friends noted increased participation this year from Fancy Gap, New Garden, Charlotte and Raleigh. There could have been more young adult Friends and more youth from Chapel Hill and New Garden.

Linda Hunter will design a survey for participant evaluation of the retreat.

John Hunter will send a letter of appreciation to New Garden Friends Meeting for use of the facility, addressed to Judy Haughee-Bartlett.

John will send a note of thanks to Jan Hutton for the Adult Program.

PFF will contribute \$300 to New Garden Friends Meeting in appreciation for use of the facilities and utilities.

Finding Friends willing to serve on the approved Standing Committee for Conference Planning.

The objective is for members of this committee to find people to assist in defining and coordinating jobs. John Hunter's sense is that Friends have not been coming forward to serve on a standing committee. Trying to schedule the group was not successful. Is the concept of a planning committee tenable? Are Friends overwhelmed and not willing to commit significant time?

A Friend to serve on a planning group need to know PFF, know what a retreat is, what it involves, and how to work together. The clerk of the committee needs to be from the Representative Body. The coordinators may best come from this Representative Body.

Organizing major tasks by Meeting was difficult. There is an opportunity to develop a model, to teach younger Friends how to plan events. Friends could make it intriguing and start early. The level of effort could be two half-days a week for two people in the winter.

Karen Garraputa has a planning document spreadsheet from this year that would be a fine starting point. Follow-up takes time and personal connections and commitments. John Hunter asked Friends to consider where they see themselves fitting in and assisting.

Friends proposed that, instead of the envisioned planning committee, PFF will organize a committee to begin preparing for the next annual retreat, with attention to the findings a brief survey of participants.

Karen McKinnon is willing to convene a committee, with shepherding from the Representative Body. John Cardarelli from Salem Creek is happy to join the committee. Joan Tillitson and Linda Hunter volunteered to meet with the committee as well. Karen Garraputa will be available to consult with the committee and to be

liaison with New Garden Friends Meeting. She expects that New Garden will welcome PFF again if requested.

Contact with Friends will be an opportunity to ask if Friends would you be willing to assist with the next retreat, thank them for attending this year and describe some of the tasks and ways they can help.

Andrew Wright's proposal for a Regional Youth Ministries Committee (PFF and NCYMC)

After a reading of the proposal and discussion, Friends agreed to move forward on a youth coordinator for PFF. This will not be inconsistent with a discernment process as proposed by Andrew Wright. This will be a topic for further discussion at one of the next two PFF Representative Body meetings.

Future Meeting Dates

June 8 –in New Garden (with Meeting for Worship at Friendship Meeting)

August 24 – TBD, at one of the smaller meetings in PFF if possible

November 1 – TBD

January 18, 2015 – TBD

The meeting closed with worship.

Jeff Brown
Recording Clerk

Attachments

Treasurer's Report

Yearly Meeting Formation Committee Report

PFF Treasurer's Report by Tom Kagan

Summary and additions to the P.F.F. Treasurer's report dated 1/19/2014 for presentation at the 03/15/2014 P.F.F. Representative Meeting.

Our total cash balance has increased since the last report by \$1,550 to a new total of \$16,079.91.

Our only outflow was an honorarium of \$ 200 to Scott Holmes for his work at the Fall Retreat, which reduced our **total to \$15,879.91**

Donations from Members have totaled \$1,550.00 our last meeting including donations from Durham, Friendship, and Fayetteville.

This does not include any income or expenses associated with the Spring Retreat.

Piedmont Friends Fellowship Statement of Net Worth as of 3/15/2014

Account

Assets

PNC Bank	\$ 7,705.93
SHCU	<u>\$ 8,173.98</u>
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	<u>\$ 15,879.91</u>
Other Assets	
Super 8	\$ -
TOTAL Other Assets	\$ -
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 15,879.91</u>
LIABILITIES	\$ -
Net Worth	<u>\$ 15,879.91</u>

Yearly Meeting Formation Committee Report

Yearly Meeting Formation Committee report to PFF Annual meeting, March 2014

HISTORY

In the summer of 2009 Piedmont Friends Fellowship (PFF) took up the question of whether it would benefit by becoming a yearly meeting. Ongoing conversations and discernment among and with affiliated monthly meetings and worship groups resulted in the establishment of a Yearly Meeting Formation Committee in the Fall of 2012. Its charge was to: discern a comprehensive plan for the formation of a PFF-related yearly meeting and recommend its relationship to PFF with a projected reporting date of March 2014. (See reverse side for more detailed history)

YEARLY MEETING FORMATION COMMITTEE (Formation Committee): its membership & labors

Affiliated meetings were invited to appoint representatives to the Yearly Meeting Formation Committee and the following Friends were appointed: RALEIGH: Martin King, Jennifer Lilly, Carol Morris; Salem Creek: Dee Edelman, Christina Connell, Dick Connell, John Cardarelli; NEW GARDEN: Dot Mason, Debbie Parvin; DAVIDSON: Barbara Gardiner; DURHAM: John Hunter; SPRING: Dan Perry; Charlotte: Julie Stafford Highberg, Marian Beane, Sandy Kahn; Upstate Worship Group under Charlotte's care: Doris Wilson & Mike Johnson.

The Formation committee held its 1st meeting during the spring, 2013 annual PFF Retreat and has met bimonthly throughout this year. We have worshiped and been well fed in body and spirit by hosting meetings. We have sought to be faithful to our charge, to spirit and to each other. We are grateful for the support & counsel of the PFF Representative Body and the helpful feedback and advice from PFF member meetings.

From these deliberations and our leadings the Formation Committee has prepared two documents that speak to its charge. These include: A vision statement and a set of core elements to guide the yearly meeting; and a statement that speaks to the Organizational Relationship of Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting and with Friends General Conference. (See separate documents)

PROPOSED TIME LINE FOR the ESTABLISHMENT OF PIEDMONT FRIENDS YEARLY MEETING

- 1) April, 2014: All PFF meetings will be invited to consider yearly meeting affiliation and if so led to minute their intentions and appoint yearly meeting representatives.
- 2) September 2014: The first meeting of PFYM representatives will be convened. Additional meetings will occur during the year for the purpose of ordering yearly meeting work including discerning its leadership.
- 3) March 2015- The first Annual Sessions of the PFYM will be held; observing visitors will be welcome

The Formation Committee is clear to continue to be active during this coming year for the purpose of providing support and guidance for the new yearly meeting. The Committee expects that it could be laid down following the Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions in March 2015.

The Yearly Meeting Formation Committee has been richly blessed from its labors together and with others and it commends this report to you for consideration, reflection and prayers.

PFF YEARLY MEETING FORMATION
PROPOSED VISION STATEMENT AND CORE ELEMENTS
*as revised at Yearly Meeting Formation Committee Meeting Salem
Creek Friends Meeting 23 February 2014*

Purpose/Summary

The Vision Statement and Core Elements are intended to clarify the guiding principles of the new Yearly Meeting and its affiliated monthly meetings and worship groups. This document launches us on a new spiritual adventure. We seek to be guided by spirit, through continuing study and prayer, to broaden our understanding of Quaker history and principles; to deepen our experience of Quaker worship, faith, and practice; to foster a loving and inclusive fellowship; to provide opportunity to connect with the wider Quaker community; and to strengthen our service and witness in the broader world.

Vision Statement

As a Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, we seek to foster a loving community of affiliated monthly meetings and worship groups by increasing and strengthening connections among members, attenders, and seekers and with other Friends' organizations. Our primary goals are to nurture monthly meetings and worship groups by supporting spiritual growth and to witness to our collective truth in the wider world.

Core Elements

SPIRIT- The Yearly Meeting is led by the inward experience of the spirit regardless of the metaphor or descriptive language that is used to express it.

Quakerism began in the 17th century as a Christian movement; Friends often referred to spirit as "Christ within" or "the inward light." While Christian expressions of spirit continue to be central for many Friends, in the 21st century other Friends feel led to describe their experiences in a variety of ways. Being led by the spirit means that we strive to cultivate that sense that moves us to interact with each other in a loving way that guides our decisions with openness to change and seeking a larger truth. We worship with an expectation of being "in the spirit," which allows us personally and corporately to recognize both higher truths and connectedness. Cultivation of spirit compels us to work in the world with compassion and care for all of creation.

QUAKER PRACTICE- The Yearly Meeting's practice is guided by the spirit, based on historical traditions and continuing revelation tested through corporate discernment.

Quaker faith and practice has identifiable though not dogmatic characteristics. A long standing tenet of the Quaker faith is that the revelation of truth has not been completed in the past and that new understandings arise. Discernment of clarity and truth is arrived at through worship and is based on a tradition of testimonies and queries and on living this faith as an outward expression of the inward experience. Our decision-making practice is characterized by discernment through listening, waiting for way to open, openness to multiple solutions, and fearless attention to truth as revealed in the present.

INCLUSIVENESS -Recognizing that inclusiveness enriches our spiritual lives, the Yearly Meeting welcomes and affirms individuals, monthly meetings and worship groups from a wide variety of social and theological backgrounds and experiences.

Rather than prescribing creed, the Yearly Meeting encourages individuals to become part of the corporate experience of Quaker faith and practice. The authenticity of the experience is based on inclusiveness, which in the 21st century, welcomes individuals and families with a wide range of religious traditions and practices and is affirming of diverse genders, ethnicities, racial identification, sexual orientations, ages, and beliefs. The Yearly Meeting is composed of monthly meetings with various modes of Quaker worship, understanding that there are multiple legitimate ways to seek and experience the spirit.

COMMUNITY & WITNESS- The Yearly Meeting fosters community within and between monthly meetings and worship groups, strengthens relationships with other Quaker organizations, and witnesses our truth to the wider world

The Yearly Meeting intends to create a community that honors all who seek both individual and corporate spiritual truth; where there is a supportive environment for individuals and monthly meetings and worship groups to take on challenges; where we follow in the footsteps of George Fox as we "walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one." The community provides the support that allows individuals to test leadings and to witness to the wider world. Belonging to the Yearly Meeting strengthens monthly meetings and worship groups in local, regional, national, and international recognition both within and outside the Quaker community. The Yearly Meeting also provides individuals opportunity for service and for witness through strengthened engagement with issues of concern.

STRUCTURE-The Yearly Meeting has a simple and sufficient structure to serve the evolving vision of the Yearly Meeting constituents.

The Yearly Meeting's establishment arises from the need of monthly meetings and worship groups for the benefits provided by a broader organization. The monthly meetings and worship groups are the source of both the people needed to do the work, and the group that determines what work needs to be done in support of Quaker practice. Its structure is designed to serve the needs of constituent monthly meetings and worship groups in growth and engagement with other Friends' organizations. The Yearly Meeting actively invites all to participate in decision-making and action, remaining flexible and acknowledging that all individuals carry truth and a responsibility for discerning and speaking their truth.

TRANSPARENCY & OPENNESS -Both in practice and in appearance, the Yearly Meeting will demonstrate transparency and openness.

The Yearly Meeting serves the needs of the monthly meetings effectively when all are made aware of the activities and actions of the Yearly Meeting and when activities and actions are undertaken in response to needs of the monthly meetings and worship groups. The Yearly Meeting facilitates open communication in a variety of modes and styles, being mindful that individuals differ in technological abilities and inclination, and learning styles, as well as familiarity with Friends' acronyms. While the Yearly Meeting encourages the use of various media for communication, it also recognizes that personal and corporate relationships are strengthened by face-to-face gatherings.

Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Yearly Meeting Organizational Relationships as Proposed

I) PIEDMONT FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP (PFF)

- a) Name change to: Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Yearly Meeting. This is the only change anticipated for PFF other than some coordination with the new yearly meeting around annual retreat, annual meeting and appointment of joint FGC representatives.
- b) All current programming, membership and member responsibilities will continue as they have been followed in PFF for many years:
 - i) Program Services
 - (1) Fall one-day retreat for adults
 - (2) Spring Annual Meeting and program retreat for adults and children
 - (3) A youth program operating throughout the year
 - (4) Financial support for Friends of member meetings who need help in attending Quaker events
 - (5) Other services as decided by PFF
 - ii) Membership - open by application to any Quaker meeting or worship group in the Piedmont area and adjacent areas of North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina.
 - iii) Responsibilities of member meetings and worship groups
 - (1) Appoint representatives to serve on the PFF Representative Body and to stand for service as officers as necessary
 - (2) Assist in the planning and execution of the retreats and annual meetings, with each meeting contributing as they are able
 - (3) Contribute financially as asked and as able to support the ongoing program services as determined by the PFF Representative Body

2) PIEDMONT FRIENDS YEARLY MEETING (PFYM)

- a) Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting will be a separate entity from Piedmont Friends Fellowship, and will be made up of member monthly meetings and worship groups
- b) Membership
 - i) Membership in PFYM is open by application to any Quaker meeting or worship group in the piedmont area of North Carolina and adjoining areas of Virginia and South Carolina
 - ii) Membership in the yearly meeting will require that the member monthly meeting/worship group also maintain or begin active membership in Piedmont Friends Fellowship. This is required because the programming function that benefits both entities will be carried out by Piedmont Friends Fellowship (see below), avoiding effort duplication. Therefore, each monthly meeting or worship group that becomes a member of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting will also have an active membership in PFF.
- c) Responsibilities of member meetings and worship groups
 - i) Appoint representatives (up to 3) to serve on the PFYM Representative Body and to stand for service as officers and PFYM representatives to other bodies as necessary. Meetings/worship groups may choose to appoint the same people to serve as representatives to both PFF and PFYM.
 - ii) Assist in the planning and execution of annual sessions and other between-sessions meetings
 - iii) Contribute financially as asked, able and needed to support the ongoing yearly meeting services as determined by the PFYM Representative Body
- d) Program - Spring retreat, Fall workshops, and year-round youth programming will continue to be provided