

Piedmont Friends Fellowship  
**Yearly Business Meeting, March 17, 2013**  
Carolina Friends School, Durham, NC

Attending:

Jeff Brown	Chapel Hill
Jerry Nelson	Charlotte
Martin Doherty	Charlotte
Sue Adley-Warick	Raleigh
Jane Norwood	Rockingham
Rudy Zalesak	Raleigh
Lyle Adley-Warick	Raleigh
Jim Binford	Charlotte
Doris Wilson	Upstate
Sandy Kohn	Charlotte
Lori Fernald Khamala	AFSC Rep, Friendship
Jeremy Pedersen	FGC Rep, Central Philadelphia
Robert Cooper	Fayetteville
Barbara Gardiner	Davidson
Wren Hendrickson	Chapel Hill
Micah Barnhill-Wright	Durham
Ben Gavin	Durham
Michael Johnson	Upstate
Karen Stewart	Durham
Lynn Newsom	Quaker House Rep, Fayetteville
Stephen Newsom	Quaker House Rep, Fayetteville
Karen McKinnon	Durham
Karen Garraputa	New Garden
Christina Connell	Salem Creek
Dick Connell	Salem Creek
Virginia Driscoll	New Garden
Ruth Moeller	Charlotte
Rhonda Lanning	Durham
Jason Child	Durham
Janet Inmon	New Garden
Debbie Parvin	New Garden
Cindy Nelson	Charlotte
Marion Beane	Charlotte
Annette Broadwell	Chapel Hill
John Hunter	Durham
Kristin Olson-Kennedy	Davidson

Meeting for Business opened with silent worship.

### Teen Report

16 teens came to the retreat from two meetings. Ben and Micah reported for the teens. Things that the teens like were free time and activities including duct tape crafts, 4 workshops, music, bear capture the flag, Frisbee and basketball. People felt like they were welcomed into the community. Things that the teens disliked are that they wanted a larger turn out of teens from other meetings and people were unable to attend the full retreat or the

retreat at all. No PFF teen Facebook page exists but there is an interest in making that happen. SAFE events would be welcome in the Central Carolinas, but it is felt that PFF does not have a the critical mass of adults and teens interested necessary to have more events like this weekend through out the year. The sense of the meeting was to accept the report as given.

### Clerks Report

The sense of the meetings was to accept the Clerks Report. The Clerks Report is attached to these minutes.

### AFSC

The local office is in Greensboro. The programs are around 2 main themes of immigration and peace & economic justice. One of the ways that local Quakers can get involved is by sending postcards to the Federal representatives about immigrations reform. There are also films that are being shown in Durham on peace issues. The regions of AFSC in the US have changed from 9 to 4 and we are presently in the South Region. The sense of the meeting is to accept the report as given.

### FGC

Jeremy Pedersen is a representative from FGC visiting PFF for the weekend and provided a report about FGC. The FGC Gathering is happening this summer over the week of July 4<sup>th</sup> in Greeley Colorado. There is much scholarship money available for the Gathering. The bookstore will have a large presence at the Gathering. FGC also provides instruction in Quaker Quest, a program that came over from England to help meetings inform their wider community about Quakerism. FGC also has a program call The New Meeting initiative that helps people start new meetings. The Quaker Cloud is a computer hosting program that hosts monthly meeting websites. PFF has many people involved in FGC including Karen Stewart, Marion Beane, Karen McKinnon, Judy Purvis, Virginia Driscoll, John Hunter, SueBear Hebner, David Bailey and Jan Blodgett. FGC has a staff of about 20 people. The sense of the meeting is to accept the report as given.

### Quaker House

The report is attached to the minutes. The sense of the meeting is accept the report as given.

### Ad Hoc Committee for Yearly Meeting Concerns

The report is attached to the minutes. The sense of meeting is to accept the report as given.

### Nominating Report

Recommendations:  
Recording clerk: Jeff Brown  
The nomination is approved.

Positions that are open: treasurer, one representative to FGC, 4 conference planning committee members.

Thanks to Kristin Olson-Kennedy for her service as recording clerk and to Jan Blodgett for her service as a rep the FGC.

The sense of the meeting is to accept the report at given.

### Treasurer's Report

The report is attached to the minutes. The sense of the meeting is to accept the report at given.

### Other Items

Thanks to the planners of the retreat, those who organized the food and worked with the teens and children.

A minute of thanks is given to Bob Cooper for all the hard work as treasurer.

A donation to the Carolina Friends School was suggested for the use of their facilities. This request is referred to the representative body.

Everyone was encouraged to visit Palmetto Friends Fellowship in Columbia SC.

The meeting was concluded with silent worship.

Kristin Olson-Kennedy, Recording Clerk.

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### **Attachments to Minutes**

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Piedmont Friends Fellowship  
**Clerk's Report on the State of the Fellowship**  
3/17/13

During the year since our last Annual Meeting, Piedmont Friends Fellowship has had a productive period and move forward on several key issues.

The work of the Ad hoc Committee on Yearly Meeting Concerns has advanced

a four-year process of of shepherding this long-standing concern among PFF Friends to the point where it is being handed off to a Yearly Meeting Formation Committee for the work of fleshing out a specific proposal of what a new yearly meeting would look like and what its relationship to PFF would be. Movement on this front caps several attempts to grapple with this issue spanning 40 years.

A new Conference Planning Committee was established to plan PFF retreats and programs in a more orderly and efficient manner.

PFF presented a successful fall retreat in Greensboro in November on “Quakers and Politics” and will today conclude one of the best attended annual meetings in recent years.

Friends from PFF have been extremely active and provide leadership in the work of Friends General Conference. Our members serve on several key national FGC committees and, as an example, had 4 PFF representatives present at a recent meeting of the FGC Executive Committee in Houston, Texas.

PFF meetings continue to show interest and activity in maintaining a strong organization of Friends in the Piedmont region across several branches of Friends continuing our tradition of inclusiveness and working successfully together.

John Hunter

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### **Quaker House Report to Piedmont Friends Fellowship March 2013**

These are some of the projects we have been working on at Quaker House. All of them have been possible because of your kind and generous support. We would like to personally thank you for that support.

1. Quaker House has been collecting resumes and interviewing candidates for a half time **Domestic Violence Program Coordinator** position that is being financed by an anonymous donor. The project is designed to establish a domestic violence program that addresses the needs of abused spouses and families of military personnel. One part of that program will be weekly support groups at Quaker House, thereby avoiding the stigma and Army prosecution which most spouses avoid at all cost.
2. **The Fayetteville Observer** wrote a wonderful feature article about us, we've provided you with a copy. It was published on February 4<sup>th</sup>, and led to many folks contacting us and 2 new people coming to Meeting for Worship.
3. We have added **5 new attendees** to our Meeting for Worship, including a 17 month old baby, the first baby in a while.
4. We hosted a concert by Pline Mounzeo, a Congolese drummer (residing in Cary), on February 22. On January 11 we had a couple from the Baptist Peace Fellowship sing folk and gospel tunes. The **concerts** were successful and earned us additional publicity.

5. We are working on the landscaping around **Quaker House**, adding top soil, mulch and plantings. We had help from 2 young men who are both doing community service. We are donating plants and a NOW member is giving us ferns and other plants from her yard. On March 11, John Powers, the Chaplain of Wesleyan Methodist University in Ohio, brought nine students on a Spring Break service trip to Fort Bragg to observe the culture of children in the military. Rev. Powers described himself as a "registered CO." After they heard our presentations, they spread 40 bags of mulch and top soil, planted the plants and cleaned our windows. Lynn assisted them in making productive contacts on the base for their tour.
6. We organized an informational forum , **"Rise of the Drones"** at the Bordeaux branch of the library on Monday, March 18 at 7:00. It will be a showing of the PBS Nova episode "Rise of the Drones" followed by a discussion.
7. We are organizing a **protest against drones** "Line Up Against Drones" to take place on Saturday, April 6, from 11 AM-Noon at the Yadkin Rd. entrance to Ft. Bragg. It is to be a peaceful vigil. We have sent the announcement of the protest to many organizations throughout the country. John Heuer, of NC Peace Action, will be bringing a model of a drone to use at the protest.
8. We are hosting a weekly **"Explore Mindfulness"** class, led by a new attendee of the Fayetteville Friends Meeting who formerly attended the Asheville Friends Meeting. It is well attended by the community, with several attendees from Ft. Bragg.
9. We sent **"Investigate Torture"** postcards addressed to President Obama to every Quaker Meeting on our donor list, asking them to distribute them. In North Carolina, we included the postcards to Senator Burr.
10. In January we joined a **protest against torture** and rendition flights at the Johnston County Airport, near Smithfield. NC Stop Torture Now succeeded at being named the organization responsible for cleaning the road that fronts that airport. Workers at Aero Corp. pass their Highway Dept. sign daily.
11. We are keeping our **Facebook** page, "Quaker House of Fayetteville," updated weekly with articles about our latest activities and links to political and spiritual activities that might be of interest to our readers. Please seek us out there and Like us.
12. We are exploring ways to also update our **website** weekly so that it will be current and relevant to weekly readers. We hope to post reader opinions and articles in the future. Steve is working to learn XHTML and CSS so he can participate with a senior Information Technologies student developer.
13. We will be attending many **Friends' conferences** this spring and summer, giving presentations on the "History and Witness of Quaker House." In February, we were the guests of the Palmetto Friends Gathering and were warmly received. Conferences we will be attending: PFF, NCYM Conservative, SAYMA, FGC, and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.
14. Steve attended a **counseling training** at the home of Lenore Yarger and Steve Woolford, our counselors for the GI Rights Hotline counseling. He plans to be knowledgeable enough to function as a backup counselor. We have averaged about 2 emails and/or calls a week from service members to Quaker House which we answer, offering encouragement, and then refer to our counselors Steve and Lenore.
15. We are co-sponsoring with the local NOW group an event titled "Rap it Up: **Crucial Conversations**," an effort to increase understanding and communication among diverse groups of people.
16. Lynn completed a 2 day workshop **"Mental Health First Aid"**, which included information on suicide prevention. She plans to share the manual and training she received with Stephen and our GI Rights Counselors Steve Woolford and Lenore Yarger.
17. Lynn continues to be active in the **Community Blueprint** organization, which brings together mental health professionals, clergy, community organizations, etc., in the military and civilian communities to facilitate networking and cooperation. Lynn was

asked to speak at their last meeting about how the organization has helped Quaker House in its efforts to create programs to aid service members. She was also invited by a Colonel to attend a Community Health Promotion Council at Ft. Bragg on March 26.

18. We were asked to organize a **“Friendship Tour”** for the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America,” whose conference we attended last August. They are continuing to support us and we are working together to organize a tour the week-end and Monday of September 7-9th. Steve also provided them with an article, which they may use in their newsletter, on the morality of militarized drones.
19. Lynn appeared on a local **cable TV show**, Cumberland County Progressives, interviewing the president of the Fayetteville chapter of NOW on the status of women in Cumberland County on Tuesday, March 12.
20. We have been asked to co-sponsor with NC-Peace Action a **“Move on the Money: fund our communities not war”** training in the Fayetteville area. This is a resource to support growing the grassroots movement for changing national priorities. People who attend will be trained to calculate how local budgets are affected by war costs and how to present that information to local governing bodies.
21. We had lunch at Quaker House for Siobhan Norris, the Project Manager for **“Give an Hour”** and “Community Blueprint” (and a former military MP), and her AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer Christine, plus others including a Green Beret. They approved of Quaker House as a venue for military spouse support groups and we were subsequently invited to have a table at the **Military Family Fun Fair** on September 14. This is a fair that is sponsored by Community Blueprint. The goal is to get military families out to have fun and at the same time, give them information on support services available for them.
22. We produced our first Quaker House **Newsletter**. We brought copies with us.
23. Steve and Lynn hosted and assisted British **photographer Edmund Clark** with his project to document worldwide sites and individuals involved with torture and renditions. We escorted him to the Centurion Aviation facility at the Fayetteville airport and he took several photos of that facility. He currently has an exhibit in Chicago, IL, and a Web site showing his work. We also toured Fort Bragg with him (no pictures).
24. NC Stop Torture Now and Quaker House plan to conduct a **Torture Accountability Conference** in Charlotte, NC, later this year or early in 2014.
25. We spoke at a Fayetteville mosque for MLK’s birthday on the topic of Quakers and Slavery.

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**Report to the 2013 PFF Annual Meeting on the work of the ad hoc committee on yearly meeting concerns and the Yearly Meeting Formation Committee.**

In September of 2009 PFF representative body initiated a conversation with member monthly meetings and worship groups around the question of “Would PFF and its monthly meetings benefit by becoming a yearly meeting? The response from meetings and worship groups led the representative body to appoint an ad hoc committee on yearly meeting concerns to hold this question in the Light and to prepare recommendations that might help us find a way forward. In August of 2010 PFF Representative body prepared a minute regarding its intention to explore the formation of a yearly meeting and association. “Such a formation would support those meetings and worship groups seeking affiliation and also provide a way for meetings. Meetings & worship groups within PFF were asked to identify their interest in participating in the yearly meeting formation work and if interested to name representatives. Seven meetings and one worship group indicated their interest either to be affiliated with a new yearly meeting or to participate in the discernment work

toward a new yearly meeting in a supportive role. The monthly meetings are: Charlotte, Davidson, Durham, New Garden, Raleigh, Salem Creek, Spring, and Upstate worship group that is under the care of Charlotte Friends.

The charge to the Yearly Meeting Formation Committee is to: 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. The PFF representative body has committed itself to hearing reports, serving as the support and nourishing body for the yearly meeting formation work and providing guidance and encouragement as appropriate and helpful.

The Formation Committee held its initial meeting during the PFF annual retreat weekend and has agreed to continue to meet approximately every 2 months at the various meetings affiliated with the formation work. The next meeting is currently scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> at Raleigh Friends. Marian Beane of Charlotte Friends will serve as clerk of the Committee. The committee remains open for others who may feel led to participate in this work and are asked to contact Marian Beane if so led.

***Submitted by Marian Beane***

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### **2013 PFF Annual Meeting Treasurer's Report**

NOTE: The complete Treasurer's Report is not available electronically at this time. It will be inserted here when it becomes available.

However, key numbers are as follows.

Cash Balance 1-1-12:		\$10,583.12
Annual Income:	Member Meeting Donations:	\$3,875.00
	Retreats and Workshops (net)	
	Spring 2012 Retreat	481.96
	Fall 2012 Workshop	174.07
	Interest	38.43
Expenses:	FGC Travel Central Committee	363.90
	FGC Gathering Support	650.00
	Special donation (K Muhanji fund)	1,000.00
	Other Misc Expenses	157.10
Cash Balance 12-31-12:		\$12,981.58