

**Piedmont Friends Fellowship
Yearly Business Meeting**

March 18, 2012

Carolina Friends School

Robert Cooper	Fayetteville
Wendy Michener	Fayetteville
John Hunter	Durham
Karen McKinnon	Durham
Sam Dempsey	Salem
Deborah Wallace	Durham
Rex Sprouse	Fall Creek (FGC visitor)
Jeff Brown	Chapel Hill
Dee Edelman	Salem
Jane Norwood	Rockingham County
Patricia Sebens	New Garden/Fancy Gap
Virginal Driscoll	New Garden
Marian Bean	Charlotte
Christina Connell	Salem/Annapolis
Dick Connell	Salem
Tommy Kagan	Raleigh
Amy Mackintosh	Raleigh
Chuck Fager	Fayetteville
Joan Tillotson	Friendship
Lory Mills	Durham
Jan Blodgett	Davidson
Stephen Newsom	Charlotte
Lynn Newsom	Charlotte
Karen Garaputa	New Garden
Kristin Olson-Kennedy	Davidson
Martin Doherty	Charlotte

Meeting for Business opened with silent worship.

Rex Spruce's letter of introduction from FGC was read and accepted. Rex was welcomed and thanked for visiting us.

Teen Report

26 young friends attended the retreat. 19 were from middle school and 7 were high schoolers and they came from Durham, Chapel Hill, Raleigh, and Charlotte. There were 7 friendly adult presences from Durham and Chapel Hill. Youth activities included playing Bear, free time, walking outside, making and eating cookies, fish bowl activities, and retreat programs. Great fun was had by all. The teens are looking into outreach to get teens from more meetings to come to the retreat next year. Facebook and texts are the chosen ways for the teens to keep in touch. The teens' hard work in the kitchen and with other chores was greatly appreciated. The teens provided some suggestions: 1) they will participate in one dance with good instruction so that can succeed, 2) the teens would like to run the intergenerational activity on Friday night, 3) they would like more kid friendly food such as sandwich makings or pasta at every meal. A suggestion was made by the adults that maybe it is time for the dancing to be laid down and another activity take it's place. Some of the events suggested was singing, more simple dances, games, or a talent show. PFF reps will include teens in the planning of the next retreat and requests that a teen representative or two attend the representative body meetings. A suggestion was made that maybe a PFF young teen Facebook page is created as a communication tool. The registration form did not have a \$20 fee for unaccompanied teens for food; that was collected when people arrived.

Treasurer Report

The treasurer shared his report and it was accepted.

Earth Care Representative sent a letter of resignation to the Clerk. Dee Edelman from Salem will ask a member of their meeting if she will be willing to be our representative to Earth Care from PFF. Minutes will be amended to include the name of the previous earth care representative.

Material Aids

AFSC laid down material aids, but it was reconstituted as Friends Emergency Material Assistance Program (FEMAP). Cards were shared that gave information about the organization and how to participate. Any one, including teens, are welcome to participate. They meet once a week to gather material to get ready to send. Cancelled stamps are also collected to raised funds.

FGC report

PFF has 3 representatives to FGC. FGC has many activities outside of the Annual Gathering. The capital campaign has ended and they raised the money they needed, but fundraising will continue to support current programs. FGC is reorganizing and the website is also being updated to make it easier to find resources. Godly Play training is going to happen at Pendle Hill this year. Couple enrichment programs can be brought to individual meetings. Build it! is a resource that can be downloaded or bought as a book for intergenerational activities. Traveling ministries and yearly meeting visiting are more resources for yearly and monthly meetings. Quaker Quest is an ongoing program of FGC. FGC bookstore is another resource. Every member of our monthly meetings is a member of FGC. People are now requested to go back to their meetings to share this information about what FGC has to offer. Everyone was encouraged to go to the annual Gathering. There are grants available for meeting house building or renovation. The grants are primarily for funding, but they can recommend people in your area for technical assistance. There is a checklist on the website for building and renovation. Every meeting should have an FGC contact that received email and would have all of this information for your meeting.

Rockingham County Friends Meeting after 42 years of being a preparative meeting under New Garden is now an independent meeting. Their sole association is with PFF. They are currently meeting in a member's home.

Bookstore report

Between \$300 and \$400 worth of books have been sold. \$35 has been donated to PFF.

Yearly Meeting and Association committee report

This consideration started in 2009. This body in 2011 requested that the exploration continue. A proposal and set of questions was sent out to all of our member meetings. A response was requested by May. The responses from the member meetings will help to determine the consideration around the proposal for a yearly meeting and association. Members of this body are requested to go back to their meetings to make sure that this proposal and set of questions are on the agenda to be considered by their meeting. The committee's next step is to prepare a report based on the responses and recommendations on the way forward. This will be presented at the first representative body meeting after the report is formulated. Dissatisfaction was expressed to the lack of the opportunity to give feedback to the proposal.

Nominations

Recommendations are as follows: Clerk- John Hunter, Assistant Treasurer- Tommy Kagan, Representative to FGC- Karen McKinnon. All terms are for 3

years. All nominations were accepted. We are very thankful to Wendy Michner for being Clerk for 4 years. She has done much work and worn many hats during her term and we are greatly appreciative for all of her gifts and time that she has shared with this organization.

Stephen Newsom and Lynn Newsom were introduced as the new Quaker House co-directors. We would also like to minute our great appreciation to Chuck Fager for all of his work at Quaker House.

Feedback to ad hoc committee.

The following questions were offered as feedback:

What problem does this solve? What real need that is unmet does this address?
What's broke about PFF that this will fix? There was a desire for more information.

There was a threshing session at New Garden that was open to all of the member meeting of PFF. It was shared that simplification was one of the positive outcomes of becoming a yearly meeting and association.

We have member meetings who do not belong to a yearly meeting and PFF becoming a yearly meeting and association would fill this niche and would help those meetings with the spiritual development of the meetings.

Reports from the committee will be posted on the website. Individuals can respond as led to the proposal and set of questions. An email address will be shared along with the documents for individual responses.

AFSC North Carolina has created 6 more films on immigrant lives. There were 8 previous films on Youtube.

The meeting was concluded with silent worship.

Kristin Olson-Kennedy, Recording Clerk.