

**Piedmont Friends Fellowship  
Annual Meeting for Business**

10:15 am April 27<sup>th</sup> 2008

Camp New Hope

The Annual Meeting began with silent worship. The first order of business led by the Clerk Virginia Driscoll was to welcome and introduce the visitors from FGC. Virginia read the traveling minutes for our visitors both Carrie Glasby and Seth Barch.

Carrie Glasby is a FGC staff member, the Development Manager at FGC. Her letter of introduction was written by Bruce Birchard, Executive Secretary of FGC. Carrie expressed her joy at being at this annual meeting and her appreciation for the warm, nurturing environment for her and her son, Timmy. Carrie reminded us of the growing and expanding Advancement and Outreach programs at FGC that one can access through [www.fgcquaker.org/ao](http://www.fgcquaker.org/ao). There are several useful handouts available as free downloads. Carrie also announced the new Campaign for 7.2 million dollars that will be introduced at the Gathering in Johnstown, PA. 2008. These funds will be used to sustain and expand FGC's many programs and services.

Carrie also informed us of the Second Young Adult Friends Conference that will happen Memorial Weekend at Earlham. YAFs from several branches of the Religious Society of Friends have been issued invitations: Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Friends General Conference, and Friends United Meeting will be represented as well as evangelical Friends. For further information, contact [carrieg@fgcquaker.org](mailto:carrieg@fgcquaker.org).

Virginia read the letter of introduction and travel for Seth Barch written by Janice Domanik, Clerk of the Committee on Ministry for Racism. Seth asked us to treat people with love no matter where they come from. In addition to these Friends from FGC, Bryon Sandford and his wife were here from the William Penn House in Washington, DC.

Virginia Driscoll then asked Michael Green, School of the Spirit, if he would like to address this business meeting. Michael asked us to think about our meetings and Friends that may be called to a ministry without knowing where to take it. The Spiritual Nurturer program enables Friends to stay at home and work and to bring back to their meetings the work of the two year Spiritual Nurturer Program. Currently there are two PFF Friends who are in the School of the Spirit: Jan Blodgett (Davidson Friends Meeting) and Louise Harris (WinstonSalem Worship Group). The residential part of the Program will be at Avila, Durham, NC. The next deadline for the program is June 1 of 2009. There are brochures at the Dogwood Lodge here at Camp New Hope. Michael asked us to consider handing this information to someone who is seeking a transforming experience. The phone number on the brochure is Michael's home phone number. Michael welcomes the opportunity to guide Friends on their next steps of their spiritual journey. The current class is the seventh in this series.

Marsha and Michael Green also announced their FGC Couples Enrichment Leaders Program to help them take time to nurture their relationship and to find tools within the community to sustain relationship. The Greens offer retreats at the Gathering, retreats at one's Meeting, and have provided brochures in Dogwood that can go back to one's meeting.

### **Treasurer's report:**

Wendy Michener reported that very little activity has occurred in this quarter. The balance is \$8269.28. PFF will owe the other half of the check (\$1300) to Camp New Hope and the groceries for this weekend. Receipts will be mailed.

There are a number of requests for FGC Gathering attendance. Requests for support are usually \$100 for individuals and \$150 for families. It was agreed by the business meeting that active members and attenders of Meetings should be supported at least this year. Next year the Gathering will be closer (Blacksburg, VA) and additional funds may need to be raised. At the same time that PFF supports FGC Gathering Travel, each Meeting needs to be reminded that travel needs to the Gathering should be supported within the Meeting.

Judy Purvis reminded us that more and more Young Friends and Young Adult Friends are participating in FGC. One of the most important things for PFF to do is to support their involvement; therefore, present the potential need for funds in a positive light. The presence of YAF at Central Committee of FGC is increasing. Their presence increases the sense of the community. Virginia reminded PFF that requests for funds for the Gathering should also be requested from one's local Meeting. It would be a good idea if the PFF Annual Retreat next Spring could be the deadline for requests for registration funds for 2009. Because PFF meets in the spring for its annual meeting, the budgets for the next year in each meeting could include travel support for the Gathering.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

David Bailey presented the report of the PFF Nominating Committee:

Terry Mehlman: PFF representative to FGC, 2008-2011.

Wendy Michener, Clerk of PFF 2008-2011

Tom Kagan will fill the Treasurer position: 2008-2009

Friends approved with gratitude as Virginia Driscoll thanked David Bailey, Sheela Repoley, and Wendy Michener who served as the nominating committee. The Clerk reminded the Business Meeting that new people need to be added to the nominating committee for 2008-2009.

### **Report from Ministry and Nurture Consultation retreat at the Powell House:**

Darryl Weisner and Virginia Driscoll attended this consultation. Darryl reported his wonder and expectations from his experience. He reported his wonder at the great similarities with this diverse group of Friends. Some of the queries that were raised at this consultation included: How do the vast areas accomplish committee meetings? How do we nurture in these settings across distances: 1) use webcoming and 2) teleconferencing. Darryl recognized at this conference that there is a hunger for more nurturing within Yearly Meetings but also the recognition that one is not alone in this journey. FGC wants to help support Ministry and Nurturing Committees in both Monthly Meetings and Yearly Meeting.

**Spiritual condition report** from Upstate (under the care for of the Charlotte meeting) is included in the attachments to these minutes.

John Hunter asked Friends to consider reexamining PFF in light of the changes in FUM. What sense to make of these changes? We need to examine directly. This work needs to

be addressed in the next few years. He asked us to consider ways that PFF could be open to change in an appropriate time frame.

Report on the book sale: Jane Norwood reported that 45 books totaling \$519.00 were sold at this Annual Meeting

Virginia Driscoll asked the attenders of this annual retreat to reflect on Camp New Hope as a facility for the Annual Retreat of PFF. What went well, and what did not? Terry Mehlman volunteered to do a survey that she will send out to the attenders.

Virginia stated the need to encourage commitment and devotion of time from Monthly Meeting attenders and members. We were saddened by the low turnout of youth at this PFF retreat. Are we sharing the joy of our experience with the PFF? Does its looseness in its structure may decrease the sense of responsibility? We all value the personal and physical interactions with each other. It was recommended that we look at the dates to make sure that it is easy for youth to attend this annual Meeting.

Virginia appreciated the “gifting” of service as the PFF clerk both within PFF and beyond in the wider Quaker community. She thanked PFF for this gift and PFF thanked Virginia for her gifts that included the presence of her grandson Maurine at this Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting of the Piedmont Friends Fellowship closed with appreciation of the Clerk, Virginia Driscoll, and for the Annual Meeting 2008. The Meeting closed with a moment of silent worship and gratitude for our time together.

Karen McKinon, Recording Clerk