

Piedmont Friends Fellowship
Annual Meeting
May 10, 2009
Camp New Hope

Clerk Wendy Michener opened the meeting after a period of silent worship.

Treasurer's Report:

Tom Kagan's printed report (dated March 31) was presented and will be appended to these minutes.

Requests for financial aid for travel: one family and 4 individual requests have been turned into Tom so far that total 720.00 so far.

Friends realized that the fiscal year for PFF is not clear. Tom Kagan would like to step down as Treasurer at the end of August 2009. He has prepared a "how to treasure PFF". Judy Purvis suggested that we poll the meeting members to find out if we could align. The choice of fiscal year was discussed with concerns for simplicity, ease of understanding. This question will be referred to the PFF representative body for discussion. Friends approved.

Annual Meeting Date:

Our traditional Annual Meeting at Quaker Lake was Easter weekend – moves around on the calendar...so March, April, May. For many years, we had two conferences: fall and spring. Issues included in the discussion: graduation, spring break, and other conferences and the need for and the desire to accommodate the young friends and their schedules. So there is a lot of flexibility and we don't need to be bound. Winterized facility/airconditioned facility needs should be met. Mother's Day weekend is difficult for graduation, and for families. The scheduling of the retreat merl fest, ball games, etc. an earlier date might be easier for young friends. For many years there were many more people. What is happening to us as an organization? Friends approved sending this discussion to rep body.

Request for Membership in PFF

Winston Salem Month Meeting attended the PFF Gathering represented by Tim Traynor. He asked for consideration of PFF affiliation and noted that their could host a Quaker Quest session in the fall.

Reports:

AFSC Southern Region:

Jane Norwood has delivered a report: see appended report with programs in Atlanta, Miami, and New Orleans. Hank Elkins reported on the Greensboro Carolina Peace and Humanitarian Justice/Project Voice for immigrants/apprenticeships and internships and jobs that the Greensboro Job Fair organized by AFSC on June 13th Peaceful Alternatives for Internships and Job. The AFSC office is doing a wonderful job. Worthy of our support.

Friends General Conference:

Ann Riggs reported from the FGC corporate meeting which met in November 2008. 47 million dollars has been identified not to cut programs but to shrink down with the expectation that when the economy recovers, the programs will be ready to go. However, there are indicators that further cuts may be necessary. The matter of whether or not the PFF appointed representative to the corporation will be referred to the representative body meeting.

FGC Ministry and Nurture:

Jan Blodgett reported that on a consultation for yearly meeting clerks (13 clerks from ten meetings.) M&N have formed a committee looking for suggestions for future efforts.

FGC Publications:

Terry Mehlman reports that Publications is trying to broaden its role to serve as advisory office for all communications at FGC. At the last executive committee meeting of the communications advisory board there was an effort to pull together messages for consistency. Many plans are in the works. There is good success of the Fit for Freedom. Publication.

FGC Long Term Discernment and Planning Committee:

Judy Purvis reported that finances were discussed in detail, but in contrast to other quaker organs, FGC is in good economic shape thanks to good stewardship and planning. There may be additional cutbacks and staff, but so far, addressing the economic conditions with a sense of confidence. Taking care of staff at the same time trying to establish priorities so that energy and resources and staff are sustained.

FGC Ad Hoc Priorities:

Marian Beane reported that priorities coming together for presentation to Central Committee in October. There is a positive spirit to this work with FGC. The representatives of PFF met in October at the Central Committee meetings. There are 9 program committees that PFF members join after they discern their own leadings. Members of PFF are well represented by Virginia Driscoll CREC, Wendy Michener (clerk of PFF), Jan Blodgett (M&N), Marian (Ad Hoc Priorities), and Terry (publications).

Tristan Green and Austin Stanion will be presiding clerks of the 2009 FGC High School group at the Gathering.

Quaker House:

Chuck Fager attended a gathering of ecumenical groups of the historic peace churches: Heeding God's Call. This program did not live up to his expectations. However it was a time for networking and Chuck was able to find threads of value such as being with representatives Eastern Mennonite University. The conference was organized by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. Chuck attended with PFF support.

Regarding Quaker House itself: good and bad news. So far, Chuck is grateful not to be in a financial mess due to the steadfast support of meetings. Good news is that QH has published a book to commemorate its 40th anniversary. Yes to the Troops No to the Wars - Quaker House: 40 Years of Front-Line Peace Witness by Chris McCallum and edited by Chuck. Chuck also reported that the hotline network is in trouble. The Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors has collapsed. They had the 800 number claimed as their exclusive property and in late April cut off Quaker House. Other groups in the

network set up an alternate phone number. The number of 15 years of brand identity is lost. Call volume has been affected so it appears that help isn't being met. The GI Rights hotline will be reconstructed. Moving forward. With the new number: 877 447-4487 Bumper stickers with the new number are available .

Fit for Freedom Workshops:

Debbie Parker has become a facilitator for Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship. Debbie offers her facilitation for a forum, workshop, that can be tailored for meetings in this area.

Quaker Earthcare:

Ruth Hamilton reported on the success of the workshop Can We Change, Yes We Can.

Quaker Earthcare Witness:

Ruth and Barbara Williamson, QEW representatives from PFF, informed us of the many ways that this organization can address our enthusiasm and concerns and for our Earth. These include a website, opportunities for activism, programs, and publications such as BeFriending Creation.

Ruth : Provides programs for how we Green our Meeting? How do we support for caring for creation. Funding for green projects, minigrants are available. BeFriending Creation – publication. Website Quakerearthcare.org. Workshops for Meeting: environmental justice, green your meetinghouse, creating green environments. Durham 1 – 3 pm Friday Afternoon May 15th. Fall Columbus Day Earthcare Witness will be in the Pacific Northwest. Barbara invited all to attend.

NC Council of Churches:

Hank Elkins of Chapel Hill Meeting reported that last November Jim Fine FCNL spoke to Chapel Hill and noted that peace networking might be accomplished through the NC Council of Churches which is actually PFF is not affiliated. Chapel Hill Mtg. would like to ask PFF to do so. Wish to merge our paths for peace and social justice. Concerns were expressed and the matter was referred to rep.

Salem Preparative Meeting:

Meg Zulick from the Salem Worship Group (formerly Winston Salem Worship Group) reported that that they are now a preparatory meeting under the care of the Friendship Meeting. They are discerning at this time whether to become a monthly meeting as if so whether to affiliate with PFF, SAYMA, NCYMC and are looking at the faith and practices of these yearly meetings. Is PFF a yearly meeting or not?

This question generated considerable discussion. From the perspective of FGC, PFF works at the same level as a yearly meeting, but structurally, we are more a loose affiliation of both unprogrammed and semi-programmed meetings. Any member of PFF is a member of FGC. Yearly Meeting have other functions that PFF currently does not sustain (recording of marriages, deaths, and births and a book of discipline that describes yearly meeting structures and procedures and outlines faith practices and theological assumptions.) Those present ask representative body to develop a set of queries for meetings to consider surrounding this topic.

The meeting then offered a minute of appreciation to all who have made this Annual PFF Gathering so successful by ministries of childcare, food, and programs.

Karen McKinnon, Recording Clerk