

Piedmont Friends Fellowship

**Representatives Body Meeting  
June 15, 2013 – 1:00**

New Garden Meeting, Greensboro, NC

Attending

John Hunter  
Bob Cooper  
Marian Beane  
Jane Norwood  
Martin Doherty  
Suebear Hebner  
Karen Garraputa  
Tom Kagan  
Isaac Little  
Barbara Gardiner  
Patricia Sebens  
Joan Tilitson  
Jeff Brown  
Claire Parish

Meeting

Durham  
Fayetteville  
Charlotte  
Rockingham County  
Charlotte  
Friendship  
New Garden  
Raleigh  
Durham  
Davidson  
New Garden  
Friendship  
Chapel Hill  
New Garden

The meeting opened after a period of silent worship.

Distribution of Minutes

John Hunter Pointed out that the minutes of Rep Body meetings are available on the PFF website. Going forward, the Clerk will send Minutes to the representatives and post on the website.

Treasurer's Report (Bob Cooper)

Bob Cooper presented a Summary and Additions to the P.F.F. Treasurer's report dated 05-31-2013, and the Statement of Receipts and Expenditures, and the PFF Net Worth Statement. (Attached)

For Friends who are supported by their Monthly Meeting, there is a standard amount of up to \$150 (and \$200 for a family) available from PFF for assistance. Checks go directly to FGC from PFF in most cases, with exceptions by request.

The meeting accepted Bob's reports.

Listing of Attenders at the PFF Annual Retreat (Jeff Brown)

Understanding that emails are important for PFF communication purposes, Jeff Brown and Annette Broadwell are compiling a list of annual Retreat participants, including emails, that is not yet complete. Friends are looking forward to completion by our next meeting. Excel is the preferred format. The document will be made available to representatives for

official PFF use only. There would need to be permission to distribute to other Friends outside of the Representative Body.

#### PFF List serve Administration Transfer (Isaac Little)

Isaac Little, Terry Mehlman, and Mica Barnhill-Wright are listed as “owners” of the PFF list serve. There are also manager capabilities that include adding list serve members. The Body recommends adding additional managers. Claire Parish of New Garden volunteered to be a manager.

For this “closed” email group, permission is required to add a member. The preferred method for adding members to the group a direct addition by an owner or manager. Contacts for list serve administration will be included in the PFF Directory.

#### Yearly Meeting Formation Committee (Marian Beane)

Marian Beane shared a report on recent Yearly Meeting Formation Committee meetings (attached). Some suggestions were made to be passed on to the Formation Committee concerning becoming familiar with different yearly meeting's faith & practice, and communicating with yearly meetings in the area about the yearly meeting formation work. Friends accepted her report.

#### Nominating Committee Report (Marian Beane)

Marian Beane reported for the Nominating Committee. An invitation was extended to Friends at the Spring Retreat to serve on a conference planning committee. Five Friends came forward to serve: Rhonda Lanning (Durham), Jim Binford (Charlotte), Doris Wilson (Upstate), Karen Garraputa (New Garden), and Bob Cooper (Fayetteville).

The group does not have a clerk yet to convene a meeting, and there is no high school age Friend yet available to serve. John Hunter will communicate with the group. Friends accepted Marian's report.

#### Youth Programming (John Hunter)

John explained that a number of issues pertaining to youth were raised after the March Annual Meeting that were to be brought up at this meeting. We need to think seriously about how to follow through on involvement of youth and how a regional cohort of youth could be supported. A part time paid staff person was suggested. (See 3/17/13 Reps Minutes)

In discussion, Friends identified several ideas for advancing a youth program and questions and concerns to consider.

The suggestion of creating a Facebook page some time ago has not been carried out.

PFF represents a region that involves reasonable transportation (2 to 3 hour drive). The bounds (geographic and Meeting-related) of the program (and specific events) are a consideration.

A part time coordinator could mean a contracted position with an event focus. Specified hours per time period could be outcome oriented for desired events reaching a target number of youth. One event could be the Spring Retreat and one or more other events during a year could be activity-based.

A PFF commitment could include directing a contracted person to communicate with Meetings and assess how many youth are active in PFF Meetings. A contract could be renewable.

Years ago, PFF requested additional money from Meetings to build a youth program. PFF has funds available now to support a program.

An annual program cost may be on the order of as much as \$5,000.

Who will oversee and support the contractor?

Internships may be part of the solution.

Isaac described SAYF weekend retreats for 7<sup>th</sup> grade to high school. A Nurturing Committee plans the programming. The concern about the SAYF retreats is transportation time needed for the large region of SAYMA. There are fees for the events and transportation.

Suebear noted that Pacific Yearly Meeting has a coordinator for youth programs as an example.

It was the sense of the meeting that work begin right away to define the vision, scope, responsibilities and desired outcomes for a request for proposals for a coordinator position. To initiate this effort, Friends will form a committee. Karen volunteered to organize two conference calls for consultation, to include Friends in their 20s to discuss details. Isaac, Joan and Jeff came forward to join the calls. The group will report to the next meeting of the Representative Body.

### Planning for Fall Retreat on November 2, 2013

Topic selection and identifying a speaker / facilitator for a 2.5 hour program is needed. The last two topics were Quakers in politics and Quaker leadership. Previously PFF had a program on Quaker Quest as well.

Scott Holmes, a member of Durham Meeting, is a conservative Quaker and an attorney who is strong in social justice. He will be teaching at Guilford and NC Central University this fall. It is agreed that John will ask Scott if he is available to lead the fall retreat.

A suggested alternative on the immigration/ social justice theme is Lori Fernald Kamala with AFSC (Martin has information if needed).

Ideas for Spring Retreat: social justice and/or conflict resolution workshops that apply to all age ranges. A panel and/or small groups can explore issues.

Friends informed Barbara that attendance at the Fall Retreat is typically 30 to 40. A registration fee covers costs for coffee, light snacks, and lunch. Child care can be offered

(prefer to know in advance if child care is needed). There is not advance registration.

Topics of program assembly & publishing and publicity-boosting attendance will be addressed at the August 25 meeting of the Representative Body.

Annual Meeting Venue Discussion (See 3/17/13 Reps Minutes item)

A suggestion in the March meeting was that New Garden is an option for the Spring Retreat location. John reminded the Body that when PFF left Quaker Lake after many years we found costs for renting facilities were expensive. Carolina Friends School has been a free venue for three years. Costs at New Garden would be low, too.

The location of the Spring Retreat could rotate if there are multiple locations.

Regarding dates, research some years ago by Karen Stewart determined that the choice of the normal date for the Spring Retreat is based on avoiding competing events (that vary somewhat year to year) and maximizing the chances for youth participation.

Karen Garraputa assured the Representatives that New Garden Meeting has facilities to accommodate the Spring Retreat and that there are additional facilities nearby.

March 14-16 would be the normal date. We can be flexible on the dates, subject to research.

There is unity that we would like to explore coming to New Garden for the Spring Retreat in March of 2014. Karen Garraputa will take this to New Garden Monthly Meeting to determine if New Garden is willing to host.

The conference committee will analyze the potential dates with the purpose of avoiding conflicts for youth attendance.

Announcements

John received a request from Fancy Gap Friends (Tony Lowe) to explore joining PFF. Trish will talk with Tony to discuss next steps.

The Representatives would like to send their greetings and support to Sue and Lyle Addley-Warick as Sue recovers from her illness.

Jeff Brown  
Recording Clerk

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(See next page for Attachments)

**Attachments to 06-15-2013 PFF Representative Body minutes:**

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures 1-1-13 through 05-31-2013

**Receipts**

|                                     |             |                            |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| Interest Income                     | \$ 16.29    |                            |
| Membership Donations                |             |                            |
| Chapel Hill Meeting                 | \$ 150.00   |                            |
| Durham Meeting                      | \$ 1,100.00 |                            |
| Friendship Meeting                  | \$ 350.00   |                            |
| New Garden Meeting                  | \$ 487.50   |                            |
| Salem Creek Friends Meeting         | \$ 75.00    |                            |
| Upstate                             | \$ 25.00    |                            |
| Wilkes County Meeting               | \$ 50.00    |                            |
| TOTAL Receipts:Membership Donations |             | \$ 2,237.50                |
| Retreats and Workshops              |             |                            |
| Spring Retreat                      |             |                            |
| Attender's Fees-Spring              | \$ 2,550.00 |                            |
| FCG Bookstore                       | \$ 265.83   |                            |
| Food and Other donations            | \$ 242.60   |                            |
| TOTAL Spring Retreat                |             | \$ 3,058.43                |
|                                     |             | TOTAL Receipts \$ 5,312.22 |

**Expenditures**

|                                                           |             |             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Fall Retreat:Program                                      | \$ 100.00   |             |
| TOTAL Fall Retreat                                        |             | \$ 100.00   |
| General Expenditures                                      |             |             |
| Donations                                                 | \$ 300.00   |             |
| Donations:FCG                                             | \$ 100.00   |             |
| Donations:Quaker House                                    | \$ 200.00   |             |
| TOTAL Donations                                           | \$ 600.00   |             |
| Other Expenses-Bank and Office Supplies                   |             |             |
| Bank Service Charges                                      | \$ 3.00     |             |
| TOTAL Other Expenses                                      | \$ 3.00     |             |
| TOTAL General Expenditures                                |             | \$ 603.00   |
| Expenditures:Retreats and Workshops:Spring Retreat        |             |             |
| Children's Program                                        | \$ 173.54   |             |
| FCG Bookstore                                             | \$ 227.35   |             |
| Financial Assistance                                      | \$ 20.00    |             |
| Food                                                      | \$ 1,277.29 |             |
| Housing Costs                                             | \$ 1,127.20 |             |
| TOTAL Expenditures Spring Retreat                         | \$ 2,825.38 |             |
| TOTAL Expenditures                                        |             | \$ 3,528.38 |
| Net Amounts from Spring Retreat:                          |             |             |
| From Attendance                                           | \$ 194.57   |             |
| From FCG Bookstore                                        | \$ 38.48    |             |
| Total Excess of Receipts over Expenditures-Spring Retreat | \$ 233.05   |             |
| Excess of Receipts over Expenditures                      |             | \$ 1,783.84 |

PFF Net Worth As of 5/31/2013

**ASSETS**

|                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| PNC Bank                     | \$ 6,612.18  |
| SHCU                         | \$ 8,153.24  |
| TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts | \$ 14,765.42 |
| TOTAL ASSETS                 | \$ 14,765.42 |

**LIABILITIES** \$ 0.00

OVERALL TOTAL \$ 14,765.42

Summary and additions to the P.F.F. Treasurer's report dated 05-31-2013 for presentation at the 6-15-2013 P.F.F. Representative Meeting.

Our total cash balance has increased since the last report by \$451.79 to a total of \$14,765.42.

Donations from Members have totaled \$805 since our last meeting including donations from Chapel Hill, New Garden, and Salem Creek. Other receipts are interest of \$16.29, and income from the Spring Retreat of \$233.05.

Checks have been received since the date of these statements from Fayetteville and Rockingham County totaling \$200.

Donations have been made since the last meeting to Quaker House for \$200, FGC for \$100 and Carolina Friends School for \$300.

An Expenditure has been made since this statement for \$150 for assistance for the FCC Gathering to reimburse an individual who had registered early to avoid late fees.

At this time, we also have one other individual and one couple going to FGC who will have assistance sent for them totaling \$350.

Lastly, the Bank has started charging a \$3 per month service fee. From what I have seen happening to other Church groups, most Banks and Financial institutions are starting to do this.

Robert Cooper, Treasurer

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**REPORT ON PFF YEARLY MEETING FORMATION COMMITTEE**

Prepared for the PFF Representative Body meeting on the 15th of sixth month, 2013

The Formation Committee has met on two occasions- at the annual spring retreat and again on May 19th at Raleigh Friends. Meetings appointing Friends to the Formation Committee include Charlotte, Raleigh, Salem Creek, Upstate Friends Worship Group, New Garden, Durham, Davidson and Spring. All representatives regardless of their appointment are fully participating in our deliberations and our sense of community is growing as we get to know each other through worship and listening carefully to each other and to Spirit.

At the May meeting we named core elements for the yearly meeting vision and explored our collective understanding of each element. They include the importance of being inclusive with a spirit of openness and transparency, good Quaker practices in worship, business and use of queries, building loving community within the meeting and in our outreach, focus on spirit and being spirit-led, attention to yearly meeting structure and relationship & support for monthly meetings & relationship to the larger Quaker community including PFF, What practices and

expressions will be relevant as a 21st Century Yearly Meeting? In these considerations we have found a continuity of thought with Friends who had previously gathered to consider the yearly meeting and for that we are grateful.

Going forward we expect to craft a vision statement to be tested and seasoned with our monthly meetings/worship groups and then move into considerations around structure and function of the yearly meeting, guidelines for faith & practice, relationship to member monthly meetings, to Piedmont Friends Fellowship and the larger Quaker community. We are being encouraged to learn from the experiences of other yearly meetings with similar beginnings and desired structure including Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and Intermountain Yearly meeting

We carry a concern for having a right relationship with other yearly meetings and NC Yearly Meeting Conservative in particular. We expect to find opportunity for open dialogue as way opens and it seems rightly ordered.

The Formation Committee expects to continue its practice of meeting every other month at one of the meetings engaged in the yearly meeting formation work. We see this as opportunity to know each other better through worship and also invite others into the conversation around yearly meeting formation. The next meetings are scheduled for the Sundays of July 14th and September 29 with meeting locations still to be determined.

Marian Beane, clerk

PFF Yearly Meeting Formation Committee