

**Piedmont Friends Fellowship  
Representative Body Meeting**

August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Friendship Friends Meeting, Greensboro, NC

Attendees: Wendy Michener (Fayetteville Friends Meeting)  
Karen McKinnon (Durham)  
Jan Blodgett (Davidson)  
Sheila Bumgarner (Charlotte)  
Virginia M. Driscoll (New Garden)  
Kirstin Olson-Kennedy (Davidson)  
Terry Mehlman (Chapel Hill)  
David L. Bailey (Friendship)  
Thomas R. Kagan (Raleigh)  
Joan Tillotson (Charlotte)

Regrets: Marian Beane (Charlotte)

Friends first gathered for Worship with Friendship Friends Meeting and a lovely lunch with cheese, gazpacho, grapes, cookies, sandwiches, and beverages. After lunch we gathered for the PFF Representative Body Meeting. We began by editing and approving the Minutes from the Annual Meeting: corrected the term Signage at Camp New Hope Registration as well as the names of the 3 visitors from FGC: Community for Ministry on Racism, Seth Barch, FGC Adjunct Programs, Byron Sanford; FGC staff member, Cary Glasby. Minutes were approved with the corrections above.

After a short period of opening silence, Wendy Michener, Clerk, began to organize the thoughts of PFF representatives gathered at Friendship Friends Meeting. (All action items discussed are highlighted in bold).

**The Clerk reminded PFF Representatives to give all PFF contact names to Terry Mehlman.** Wendy informed PFF that Morehead City is no longer active in PFF and the representative Nan Boles plans to be a member of Friendship and not Morehead. Wendy informed us that Chatham Friends Meeting (near Spring Friends Meeting) also a member of FUM Yearly Meeting has inquired about membership to PFF. Virginia Driscoll has send the PFF brochure to them. Although it was discussed that it might be a good idea to check with Spring Friends about the Chatham Meeting, it was not clear who would be following up on this effort.

We discussed how the greater world can find PFF and to find Friends. A recommendation was made that we find a way to link to our meetings while at the same time protecting our personal information. **Representatives are reminded to get Permission to link to Directions to one's Meeting and to put Meeting Information on the PFF website.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Tom Kagan .

Balances from May 2008 Total member contributions \$2157.50.

Spring Retreat grossed including bookstore: 2330.66-566.66 = \$1467 gross income

Expenses: Facility fees \$2922.50 supplies, food, childcare = \$3069.82. Thus the Annual Meeting overspent by \$1500.00. The FGC Bookstore is a pass-through expense.

General expenses: FGC Ministry and Nurture Workshop \$121.73

Gathering expenses: \$120 to Benji and Sue Hebner (Friendship)

\$100 for John William (Durham FM)

\$100 Susan Lees for Monte Verde

Darryl Waisner has not yet submitted his expenses for the Ministry and Nurture Workshop.

**Please remind Meetings that one should send financial aid checks for PFF to Tom not to Wendy.** Wendy reported that the statements for July were: Selp Help \$4886.91 BBT \$3186.00.

Missing Checks Registrations for Judy Purvis. There are probably about 8 checks that were not deposited and the envelope with them hasn't surfaced. The good news is that Terry knows who the check was from. **Terry will send this list to Tom and he can inform these people that they need to cancel and re-write or just re-write the PFF retreat check (depending on how expensive the checks are to cancel).** Checks were 45.00 per person. **Tom will check with Jane Norwood to determine if the FGC bookstore bill has come in.**

### **PFF Retreat:**

Registrar's report: Terry Mehlman sent out the email this morning with numbers of attenders. Generally, we had 16 meetings and other Quaker organizations represented. 29 adults and 12 kids stayed overnight and most stayed for both nights. There were 23 adults and 2 kids that were walk-ins. PFF did not charge a day rate, but Camp New Hope does! Thus we should probably charge a day rate next time the Annual Meeting is at Camp New Hope.

That information about attendance led to questions about the use of Camp New Hope as a facility when it is so close to two larger Meetings, Chapel Hill and Durham. What was the impact of the decision to go to Camp New Hope?

That discussion led the PFF Representative Body members to discuss the use of the spaces at Camp New Hope and to open up another discernment of other appropriate spaces for the Meeting. Places mentioned included Rockfish, Fayetteville, Pfeiffer, Misenheimer, Caraway, Celo, Camp Chesnut Ridge. Although commercial kitchens are not going to be readily available at many of these spaces, we could theoretically find ways to feed ourselves without cooking. However, work and cooking together has become a nurturing opportunity that we look forward to doing at the Annual Meeting. Thus we need to think about the ability to serve simpler foods in addition to scrutinizing the policies of the facility that will be inclusive of all Friends.

Specifically, at Camp New Hope, the buildings did have good energy and acceptable sleeping arrangements. **Action for Representative Body will be to sign up Camp New Hope for Mother's Day Weekend and specifying the following spaces: Fleming, May, Dogwood, and Walnut. We will make use of the small kitchen in Fleming has a small kitchen and the larger kitchen in Dogwood.**

Brochures PFF: David Bailey took the previous brochure and updated. The cost of each brochure is sixty cents. David will distribute in a timely manner. **Action item for Representative Body Members: each meeting should reimburse PFF for the cost of the brochures.**

The PFF Reps then discussed and brainstormed at length Quaker Youth Programs and PFF: First, to review the children in PFF Meetings:

Davidson has no teens, but has newborns to 8<sup>th</sup> grade.  
Charlotte has no teens, but newborns to 7<sup>th</sup> grade.  
New Garden is a very large Meeting with all ages and stages.  
Friendship has newborn to 6<sup>th</sup> grade.  
Raleigh has 6 teens.  
Durham has about 25 teens in the Teen Program  
Chapel Hill has about 14 in the Teen program.

How does PFF plan and coordinate its program with Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers? There have been different ages broken out for middle school and high school: sometimes it splits at age 12 and other years, it has been age 13. Much of this decision was determined by the energy of the leaders and the distribution of ages of the Young Friends. While the distances between Meetings involved in PFF is not that great, one concern is that one is just adding more to Meetings than they are already doing, and that's hard. One also worries about the ability of teens to commit to more calendar items than they already have.

The question then becomes, How do we create this special community of Young Friends? How do we address the opportunities for Young Friends to gather beyond their individual meetings? We know that they are interested in meeting other Quaker teens, but they have so much to do already.

An idea that came forth included a Quaker Teen Blog, **Action Item: Can we find someone who would be interested in setting up this opportunity? Also mentioned was a First Day School Leader Teacher's Blog?**

How can we create space for connections? For example, how about a Work Camp Service Project for the PFF Teens? Quaker House may be able to be one focus for teen energy. David Bailey suggested looking for age appropriate service projects to link Young Friends from different Meetings together. Friendly Adult Presence (FAP) energy will have to be generated as well and PFF Month Meetings could inform all PFF Meetings about upcoming youth activities. **There was a suggestion that PFF organize a Snow Camp Theater date for this summer.**

**An additional idea was submitted by Janet (Friendship) to create penpals between Meeting elementary age children. Sara will check with Carrie Head and Virginia Driscoll will check with Ellen Kepchar at New Garden.** Ellen Kepchar in on the RE committee of FGC.

**It was suggested that PFF invite the FGC REI to come to one of our gatherings and present a workshop that would help spark the interactions between our Meetings.** Thus an action item is to explore this workshop for the annual meeting in the spring.

The Representative Body discussed the structure of Piedmont Friends Fellowship and the concept of Yearly Meetings in the Religious Society of Friends. This discussion was pertinent to the energy and efforts of Teens who may want to become involved in the Teen activities of larger Friends organizations such as SAYMA. In North Carolina there are several Yearly Meetings; namely, Friends United Meeting (FUM), Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting Association (SAYMA), North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservation (NCYMC), and Evangelical Friends International (EFI). PFF is a Fellowship of Meetings: and is the only one in the Friends General Conference. PFF has been affiliated with FGC since 1975.

Wendy described PFF's structure as being "set up as a picnic and a potluck" and there are several Yearly Meeting affiliations within PFF. There is a sense that there are more meetings in NC that would be interested in PFF because they are not completely comfortable with FUM or NCYMC. But there is a concern that we would be splintering groups of Friends further. What are PFF's obligations to FGC? PFF is the only Fellowship in Friends General Conference. PFF is treated as if it was a yearly meeting. PFF has 3 representatives to the Central Committee of FGC. Not only represent PFF but will also serve on a committee within FGC. Currently, Jan Blodgett, Terry Mehlman, and Christina Repoley are the representatives to FGC. Wendy will be attending central committee as Clerk of PFF. The PFF representatives get together and name who they want to have on the Executive Committee of FGC. We briefly discussed the expenses of time and money that it means to individuals that serve on Central Committee.

The Representative Body briefly discussed the outreach initiative that has come from British Friends: Quaker Quest. FGC sponsors a traveling team that provides a course that trains meetings in this program. Meetings organize a core group to open their Meetinghouses every Monday night of the year to let people know about Quakerism. This meeting is designed to be open for the public and is partly lecture, partly questions and answers, and silent worship. These Quaker Quest meetings become a safe place to come in and talk about Friends. Because of the cost of the travel and hospitality for the FGC Quaker Quest Friends, it may be possible for smaller Meetings in PFF to share the training. The Representative Body did not take action on this information at this time. This information can go with Representative Body Friends back to their respective Meetings for discernment about this advancement and outreach opportunity from FGC.

The PFF Representative Body will try to meet on November 2, 2009 in Rockingham, NC with the Rockingham Friends Meeting. The PFF Representative Body expressed appreciation to David Bailey and Friendship Meeting for hosting this gathering today in Greensboro.

Karen McKinnon, Recording Clerk.

Please forward corrections and additions to these minutes to [kmck@med.unc.edu](mailto:kmck@med.unc.edu).