

Piedmont Friends Fellowship  
**Representative Body Meeting**  
**Tenth Month 27, 2012**  
New Garden Friends Meeting

**Attending:**

Robert Cooper  
John Hunter, PFF Clerk  
Karen McKinnon  
Marian Bean  
Karen Garraputa  
Suebear Hebner  
Jeff Brown  
Martin Doherty  
Lyle Adley-Warrick  
Barbara Gardiner  
Jane Norwood  
John Cardarelli  
Tommy Kagan

**Meeting:**

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

Also in attendance: Virginia Driscoll (New Garden), Claire Koster (Friendship) ,  
Judy Haughee-Bartlett (New Garden), Joyce Murs (New Garden), Bob Murs (New  
Garden), and John Geary (Boone).

Representative Body Meeting started with silent worship.

**Agenda**

Welcome and opening worship

Note: During the welcoming a question about PFF online arose. Answer: Do a  
web search for "Piedmont Friends Fellowship" to find the website (hosted by  
Raleigh).

Reports:

Treasurer's Report (Bob Cooper)  
New Bern Meeting (John Hunter)  
Ad Hoc Committee for Yearly Meeting Concerns (Marian Beane)  
Available Program Resources (Kristin Olson-Kennedy)  
Other Reports

Discussion / Decision:

Establishing meeting dates for next year.  
Establishing a Standing Committee for Conference Planning  
Planning for Annual Meeting in March 2013

Other Business

Closing Worship

Minutes from Eighth Month 26, 2012 were shared in writing and reviewed. The minutes were accepted as written with three name spelling corrections.

## **Reports**

### Treasurer's Report (Robert Cooper)

The Treasurer's report was shared and accepted as written with appreciation. The report is attached to the minutes. Note that the dates for the statements should all be as of 9-30-12.

### New Bern Meeting (John Hunter)

John has corresponded with the Clerk of New Bern Meeting. That small meeting is interested in being associated with NCYMC, mostly because of their geographic location.

### Ad Hoc Committee for Yearly Meeting Concerns (Marian Beane)

Marian circulated a written report (shared with representatives via email on 10/26/12). This report follows the approval of the representative body and subsequent work by the Ad Hoc Committee.

Marian described the "get acquainted" meeting on September 30. The spirit-filled meeting had eight key themes. Marian recognized John's historical perspective and framing of the opportunity. At the conclusion of the meeting Friends united around the desire to move forward with the establishment of the Yearly Meeting Formation Committee, the body that will work on details of formation. The Ad Hoc made five recommendations to move forward on forming a yearly meeting. PFF representative body will continue to serve as a support and nourishing body as minuted in June (PFF). The minute will be restated with an insertion "will continue to hear reports" to read as follows:

4. The PFF representatives will continue to hear reports and serve as the support and nourishing body for the yearly meeting formation work and provide guidance and encouragement as indicated above.

John added there was great enthusiasm in the meeting and recognition of a new paradigm for meeting formation, stressing inclusiveness. The more the Formation Committee makes progress, the more attractive the opportunity is becoming as a real opportunity.

The report was approved and is attached to the Minutes.

### FGC Central Committee

John handed out a written report from Jan Blodgett (Davidson Friends Meeting) on the FGC Central Committee. John described the report. John intends to

attend the meeting on new meetings in January. He emphasized the upcoming opportunity to take advantage of FGC website hosting in a "Quaker Cloud." It appears to be an affordable, convenient, beneficial solution, especially for small meetings. It is expected to go public in January.

John urged representatives to promote the 2013 FGC Gathering in Greeley, Colorado. He strongly recommends attendance and pointed out that the FGC Gathering is particularly effective in engaging teenagers as lifelong Friends. The cost is reasonable and financial aid is available. In 2014, the Gathering will be located near Pittsburgh. Marian observed that Stewardship Services Program is a continuing service of FGC. There will be workshop on this program hosted by Charlotte Friends sometime early in 2013. Virginia added that there is Jewish-Quaker dialogue happening that recently emerged because the Central Committee met at the Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center in Maryland.

Jan's report was accepted.

#### Available Program Resources for the PFF Retreat (Kristin Olsen-Kennedy)

Kristen provided a report to John with information on available resources for programming for the PFF Retreat. Martin Doherty and Bob Cooper contributed to the report. The Representative body accepted the report and expressed appreciation. The report will be considered during the planning process for our spring retreat.

#### Other Reports

No other reports at this time.

#### **Discussion / Decision:**

#### Establishing meeting dates for next year

The Representative Body approved the following meeting dates and locations.

January 27 at Rockingham

March 15-17 annual retreat at Carolina Friends School

May 26 Fayetteville

August 25 Chapel Hill

November 2 at Davidson Friends Meeting

#### Establishing a Standing Committee for Conference Planning

Conference planning in the past has fallen on the Committee as a whole, but just a few Friends took on the work. For a group of our size, a proposal is to have a standing committee so that several people would share the load for pulling together our conferences.

Discussion raised concepts for a standing committee, including the following:

- Take general concepts from the Representative body and work on the details on behalf of the whole committee.
- Facilitate communication and keep the process moving in the weeks between meetings
- Report to the representative body
- Take responsibility to involve other people in our Meetings to assist with planning details and to volunteer for tasks.

Friends confirmed commitment to the concept of a standing committee for conference planning. The next step would be to define its structure, responsibilities, and approach for review in January. John will initiate the latter, with assistance from Karen McKinnon, Karen Garraputa, and Bob Cooper.

### Planning for Annual Meeting in March 2013

The venue is confirmed as Carolina Friends Schools for March 15-17.

#### Food planning

Karen will take responsibility, with commitments from other meetings to assist. Representatives need to contact people to take on a meal. A committee will take on the details.

#### Housing planning

Last spring, the housing accommodations were successful but the exchange board did not work quite as intended. The intention is to connect to local meetings to put out requests for participation. As before, housing options for this spring are camping, staying with local Friends, or staying in a hotel. Durham will take responsibility for housing planning this year.

#### Teen and children's programming

Durham has restructured its youth program to put 7<sup>th</sup> grade through high school in one section, and the younger children in a second section, each staffed by a paid coordinator. If Durham staff can lead the effort, youth from other meetings can participate. Karen McKinnon will work with Krista, Emily and Isaac to work on program ideas. There will need to be volunteers from other Meetings. Jeff added that there is interest at Chapel Hill in participating in children's programming. Karen explained that New Garden youth will not be available because of a schedule conflict with events around their spring trip.

Note: Perhaps there could be a teen event in the fall, to be considered soon.

Child care will be offered at the retreat through age 3: usually we would pay for a child care provider. Pre-school will be covered by programming.

*(Note: Recorder Jeff Brown had to depart at this time. The following minutes were recorded by John Hunter.)*

### Adult Program for PFF March annual Meeting

Friends reviewed Kristin's report on Program ideas/suggestions (see above) and discussed the 2 offerings from ESR and the 6 suggestions from the FGC Traveling Ministries Program. After some discussion it was decided that Marian would contact Deborah Fisch to see if the program on "Spiritual Gifts" could be presented in a personally interactive manner where, over the course of the weekend, participants would get the opportunity to practice discerning others' gifts and having ones' own spiritual gifts named. It was pointed out that such skills could be extremely valuable to nominating and naming committees thereby making all of our meetings more congruent and vibrant through better matching of gifts and service. Marian will report to the representatives by email on her discussion with Deborah by early December so as to allow timely planning for our retreat in March.

### Announcement

Karen McKinnon announced that PFF Friends could shortly expect to hear more about a "Quaker Pilgrimage" event being planned to England in August of 2013. This pilgrimage will duplicate the events so long offered by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting in June of alternating (even numbered) years, but will take place in August of odd numbered years and focus on Friends from the southern United States. The Quaker pilgrimage is a week-long guided tour of George Fox's initial travels visiting many historic sites of special interest to Friends.

### Gratitude to New Garden Meeting and to Bill Rogers

Before closing, Friends were mindful of the kind and efficient hospitality provided by New Garden Friends and we express our heartfelt appreciation to Karen Garraputa and other Friends from New Garden and Friendship Meeting who assisted with the preparation for this conference.

Friends were also most appreciative of the thoughtful program presented by Bill Rogers and in addition to expressing our heartfelt thanks, approved a donation to FCNL of \$100 as a token of our appreciation.

The meeting closed with some moments of silence.

Minutes recorded by Jeff Brown and John Hunter

**ATTACHMENTS**  
(below)

Attachment 1. Financial Report (This report is available on the PFF website)

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Attachment 2. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee for Yearly Meeting Concerns

### **Piedmont Friends Fellowship**

#### **Ad hoc yearly meeting committee report and recommendations October 27, 2012**

At its June 17 meeting PFF representative body approved several recommendations brought forward by the ad hoc yearly meeting concerns committee including the recommendation to *'move forward to accomplish those tasks which would lead to the formation of a PFF related yearly meeting'*. (Recommendation #1) The representative body asked the ad hoc yearly meeting committee to continue to guide this work until such a time as a Formation Committee has been created and approved by representative body.

On September 30<sup>th</sup> the ad hoc committee facilitated a 'get acquainted' session hosted by Charlotte Friends. (Recommendation #2) Twenty-two Friends from six (6) PFF meetings and worship participated. Meetings represented included Raleigh, Charlotte, Upstate (all interested in forming a yearly meeting), Winston-Salem, New Garden (interested in knowing more about directions for a yearly meeting), and Durham (supportive of the process of yearly meeting formation for those meetings desiring it). Salem meeting was unable to attend and sent regrets. The day included meeting for worship, lunch and fellowship with Charlotte Friends; information sharing around yearly meeting history, structures and functions; sharing of visions, desires and concerns in forming a yearly meeting.

Key themes of the session included:

- Great enthusiasm for the possibilities and opportunities in a yearly meeting
- Interest in knowing more particularly for those who were considering the possibility of a yearly meeting for the first time
- Recognition that there are choices for how the yearly meeting is formed to meet the needs and desires of those forming the YM, i.e. there is not just one way
- A spirit of openness to a diversity of visions and desires for what the yearly meeting might be
- Useful information about general concepts and constructs for a yearly meeting and a reminder that it does not need to be a long arduous process. Lake Erie Yearly Meeting (LEYM) and North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative (NCYM-C) were given as examples to consider.
- Desire to utilize a variety of communication tools including social media for developing community and building programs
- The importance of using good Quaker order including minute taking as we move forward
- Seeking to remain open to Spirit in how we are led in this work

At the conclusion of the meeting Friends united around the desire to move forward with the establishment of the Yearly Meeting Formation Committee.

**Having heard the spirit and enthusiasm around forming a yearly meeting the ad hoc committee on yearly meeting concerns recommends that:**

- 1. The Yearly Meeting Formation Committee be established by early 2013 and**

**charged with discerning a comprehensive plan for the formation of a PFF-related and its relationship to PFF with a target date of March 2014. (Recommendation #3)**

**2. Any further collection of data via electronic surveys or other be given careful consideration by the Formation Committee.**

**3. The composition of the Formation Committee include:**

- a. up to three (3) representatives from meetings/worship groups interested in forming the yearly meeting;
  - b. one or more representatives from PFF meetings interested in supporting the work of forming the yearly meeting;
  - c. individual members of monthly meetings/worship groups who have a leading to support the work of forming a yearly participate
  - d. individuals from meetings outside the PFF family are also welcome.
- (Recommendation #5)

**4. The ad hoc committees on yearly meeting concerns continue to care for the process until the Formation Committee has been established.**

*(Note: See PFF Representative Body Minutes 10-27-12 for an approved rewording of this recommendation.)*

**5. The time line for establishment of the Yearly Meeting Formation Committee be as follows**

- By late December or early January PFF meeting and worship group will be asked to name representatives for the Formation Committee
- At the January 27<sup>th</sup> PFF rep meeting the ad hoc committee will bring for consideration an initial roster of Formation Committee members/participants and one member of the Formation Committee to serve as its clerk.
- Upon approval of the Formation Committee & clerk the ad hoc committee will be laid down.

Submitted for consideration by ad hoc committee on yearly meeting concerns:

Lyle Adley-Warrick, Marian Beane, Bob Cooper, John Hunter, Patricia Sebens

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Attachment 3. FGC Central Committee report by Jan Blodgett

Central Committee Report for PFF

In his opening comments Barry Crossno, FGC General Secretary, spoke of how often he is reminded that Friends have something to share with the world as monthly and yearly meetings are asking more and more for outreach help. He also told us that we had to have the courage to be happy and faithful.

All in all, FGC is in a good place, if a complex place. We are continuing to manage finances carefully and to develop new strategies for stewardship and grants. NOTE: There will be a fall annual fund drive directed at both meetings and individuals. Please consider supporting FGC.

New Programs: Stewardship services - using estate planning to bring in new funds but also developing as ministry to help individuals and meetings with thoughtful use of their funds. New Meetings - Brent Bill, funded by a 2 year grant, is working in a number of areas to support new meetings. While mainline denominations have recorded drops, FGC Quakers have increased by 4% in recent years. Over 63 meetings have been founded since 2002. Brent is already answering questions from people about new meetings. He's also planning a meeting in January for Yearly Meeting clerks to gather information about processes and needs. It will January 18-19, 2013 at Pendle Hill. He's also preparing a survey to go the 63+

meetings and invites people to send him information about any new meetings to keep developing the list. His email is [newmeetings@fgcquaker.org](mailto:newmeetings@fgcquaker.org).

Web Toolkit - Now in beta with plans to roll out in January.

This is a service and in a way a ministry to meeting. For monthly fee (\$10/mo for meeting with less than 50 members, \$20 for larger meetings), they will host a website (in Drupal) - very easy to update and maintain and they will have a way of storing and indexing minutes. There will be varying levels of access to the minutes depending on the meeting's preferences. As noted there - this is the best backup of minutes that are probably on someone's hard drive.

New Vision statement to go with Mission Statement

Using the framework of a vision statement being the world we wish to see, a mission statement as being what our role is to bring that world into being, values what guides us in our work moment to moment and gifts being what unique skills we bring, the vision statement was crafted to place our mission statement in context.

FGC value statement

We envision a vital and growing Religious Society of Friends—a faith that deepens spiritually, welcomes newcomers, builds supportive and inclusive community, and provides loving service and witness in the world.

Through FGC, we seek Quakers led by the spirit joining together in ministry to offer services that help Friends meetings and seekers to explore, deepen, connect, and serve ( ) out of our living faith (Can't read my handwriting on the last part, sorry).

Ongoing work:

2013 Gathering - At the Growing Edges of our Faith -- In Greeley, CO. June 30-July 6

2014 Gathering - University of PA -California.

Quaker Quest - continuing and developing post-Q-Q programs as well

Curriculum - continuing training in Godly Play and Faith and Play training; working on pre-school curriculum - Sparkling Still

Outreach - Newcomers cards available online to print and use at meeting. Committee working on accessible language materials.

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#### Attachment 4. Available Program Resources for the PFF Retreat (Kristin Olsen-Kennedy)

I contacted two places for suggestions of topics and/or leaders of retreats that would be available for our Yearly retreat. The first place was Earlham School of Religion Traveling Ministries. They do not charge anything to send out a member of their staff to lead a retreat. The person that responded to the request was David Johns, Professor of Theology. He attached two outlines for longer events that I am sure can be shortened to a one day retreat. I have attached them to the report. Mandy Ford conveyed to me in her email that "He told me to tell you that if you want a spirituality based theme, the 'travel' course (one of the syllabi) can be described as: "why we should avoid spiritualities that look for 'home'"

I also contacted FGC traveling ministries. I talked to Deborah Fisch. She gave me the following list of topics that had been requested recently from the Traveling ministries:

1. Testimonies in Friends lives, how they are the fruit of their work
2. Deepening meeting for worship.
3. How to be more mindful of others' spiritual gifts and how we can give them guidelines.
4. Intergenerational work.
5. How we can get to know one another deeper.
6. How to be good clerks and attenders.

FGC requires us to pay for the transportation cost of the presenter and their companion in ministry. I did share with Deborah the dates of our retreat and she said that they would be very happy to help us find someone to lead a retreat when we have decided on a topic.

Martin emailed me the following suggestions of people we could ask:

FMW ( Washington, DC Friends.... names are my hurdle I know who but..... ah, Maybe David Kendall and Ann Kendall in Bethesda---David was Clintons lawyer.) and Molly Tully has connections through her late husband and Elise Stork and Jeab Myer Capps, both work/travel with USAID (Agency for International Development) and JE McNeil who is director of the Conscientious Objectors Org whose name leaves me.. these are my suggestions Peace and success.

I hope that these topic suggestions helps start the conversation. Please let me know your choice, so that I can follow up where needed let the ones that are not chosen know.

Kristin, Martin, and Bob