

Piedmont Friends Fellowship

**PFF Representative Body Meeting
November 1, 2014 – 1:00**

Durham Friends Meeting

<u>Attending</u>	<u>Meeting</u>
John Hunter	Durham
Karen McKinnon	Durham
Linda Hunter	Durham
Micah Barnhill-Wright	Durham
Marian Beane	Charlotte
Martin Doherty	Charlotte
Barbara Gardiner	Davidson
Tony Lowe	Fancy Gap
Ken Bradstock	Fancy Gap
Tom Kagan	Raleigh
Jeff Brown	Chapel Hill
John Cardarelli	Salem Creek
Al Carwile	New Garden
Virginia Driscoll	New Garden
Joan Tillotson	Friendship

The meeting opened after a period of silent worship.

Clerk John Hunter welcomed representatives.

For the Minutes of the Representative Body Meeting on August 24, 2014, Friends approved adding Ken Bradstock's email drkbradstock@gmail.com to the minute on the ad hoc PFF website committee.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tom Kagan reported that total cash and bank accounts amounted to \$18,327.59 as of 11/1/2014. Outflow was \$300.00 for Travel Expenses to make it possible for some PFF representatives to attend the FGC Central Committee Meeting. Donations from Members have totaled \$1,200 since our last meeting including donations from New Garden and Charlotte monthly meetings. Friends accepted the report with gratitude.

FGC Central Committee Meeting

The Friends General Conference Central Committee held its annual meeting in October. PFF is well represented on committees of the Central Committee. PFF Friends present who attended this year were Marian Beane, John Hunter, Karen McKinnon, Karen Stewart, and Tony Lowe. Friends expressed appreciation for Quaker processes and spirit-led business and fellowship.

An example of decision making was the decision to downsize and restructure the FGC Bookstore. Friends are encouraged to use the new bookstore website to support the service. Among many issues considered were the spiritual deepening program, and the feasibility study for fund raising.

Ad Hoc PFF Website Committee

The committee is discussing ways to structure the website to accommodate the new Yearly Meeting and the Fellowship.

Report of the Yearly Meeting Formation Committee

Marian Beane reported that the Yearly Meeting Formation Committee still exists in support of the Yearly Meeting. The Yearly Meeting Representative Body formed and met on October 4th at New Garden Friends Meeting to consider preparation for the first meeting of the Yearly Meeting in March. Nineteen were in attendance including six meetings/worship groups with minutes of intention to affiliate including Charlotte, Fancy Gap, New Garden, Raleigh, Salem Creek, and Upstate Worship Group. Durham and Chapel Hill, both under discernment regarding affiliation, were also represented. In the meeting, Friends shared visions, reviewed core values, considered ways to carry out the vision, considered priority tasks, and planned for Representative Body meetings leading up to the first Yearly Meeting in March.

The intention is that Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting and Piedmont Friends Fellowship be distinct but closely related bodies. Important elements are communication and coordination of scheduling meetings.

The committee's report is attached.

Listserv

Friends are reminded that Micah Barnhill-Wright needs notification of changes in email addresses for the Representatives list and Meeting Clerk status for the Clerks list to keep the listserv effective. micah.barnhill.wright@gmail.com

Report on effort to build a cadre of children within PFF & NCYM(C) meetings

Andrew Wright of Durham Meeting who has been active in PFF retreats and is active in NC Yearly Meeting Conservative joined our meeting to report on our cooperative initiative with NCYM(C) with regard to children's programming. He observed that activities for late elementary and middle school levels are valuable for engaging families and building familiarity between children from regional meetings. In turn, building contacts through children will help build bridges between adults in PFF and NCYM(C) meetings.

Durham Friends Meeting has enough children to take a lead in organizing shared activities. In addition to shared programs, yearly meetings will be encouraged to invite children from the region to their respective annual meetings.

This is a year-long discernment process, clerked by Andrew who will report progress to PFF and NCYM(C).

Evaluation of today's Fall Retreat – Discussion and notes for next year.

Friends observed that the Durham Friends Meeting facility worked very well, the format of a presentation followed by small group discussion was rewarding, the question and answer period was valuable, and the fellowship was lively. Gems from the session included uplifting the concepts of transformation and the Quaker Way, There was a suggestion for next year to gather at 9:30 instead of 9:00 to accommodate travel by Friends from far away. Hearing about service experiences of PFF Friends, older and younger, was a highlight as well.

Friends approved an honorarium for today's presenter Christina Repoley in the amount of \$200 in addition to paying travel expenses. Friends also approved a donation to Quaker Voluntary Service in the amount of \$50.

Planning for the March, 2015 Annual Meetings. (John Hunter)

In the absence of a standing program planning committee, the committee as a whole needs to take responsibility for the program and do the legwork for the PFF Annual meeting.

Friends agreed that a potential presenter is for the March 2015 retreat is Mary Kay Glazer (on Spiritual Disciplines or other topic to be selected). It would be beneficial to relate the program to the FGC theme of Seeking Wholeness.

Looking ahead to 2016, John Hunter will invite George Lakey who has vast experience in peace work, social action, and engaging youth.

Thinking about young adult presenters for future retreats, Galen Fink from Canada is recommended as a potential presenter.

Regarding the children's programming, Chapel Hill Friends Meeting is willing to take responsibility for children's for 2015 for infants through grade 8 and will coordinate with Raleigh Friends Meeting (Kathy Staley).

Marian will consult with Karen Garraputa about food management for the annual retreat, and discuss ways to make it most manageable. Friends may consider an honorarium for food management. John Cardarelli offered to assist, including Friends from Meetings in and near Greensboro.

John Hunter is willing to spearhead hospitality and publicity.

At the Annual Retreat, there will be time allotted for the new Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting to meet on Saturday of the retreat, open to any Friends to attend. In the future, it may be necessary to add an extra day or extra time to accommodate all Yearly Meeting needs.

Regarding program planning, a potential solution was identified years ago. Friends threshed a standing program committee and nominated a five-member committee that did not function as expected. Friends acknowledged it is challenging to identify

additional Friends from our respective meetings to be effective program planning members.

The Clerk requested that Friends think about a proposal to form a program committee and develop recommendations for a structure that has a better chance for success, and come up with names for people who could serve and make it work.

Confirm meeting dates for 2015 and locations

The Representative Body discussed a change in meeting days from Sundays to Saturdays. The practice has been to join in First Day worship at the host Meeting and to move the meeting locations around the region. Moving PFF meetings to Saturdays will forego the worship opportunities, but Saturday meetings will afford common travel for PFYM and PFF representatives. Conceptually, this Representative Body intends to commit to dates for 12 months in advance and move PFF meetings to Saturdays on a temporary basis, with consideration of meeting on Sundays in the future. Friends will consider visitation to PFF Member Meetings separate from the Representative Meetings. Friends approved the following dates (Saturdays) for PFF Representative Body meetings.

January, 18, 2015, Hickory (Catawba Valley)
March 13-15, 2015 Annual Meeting, New Garden, Greensboro
June 6, 2015
August 22, 2015
November 7, 2015
January 16, 2016
March 11-13, 2016

Announcements and Other Business

Friends expressed appreciation and gratitude to Durham Meeting Friends for hosting the retreat and Representative Body meeting today.

Friends were asked to hold in the Light the Representative Body of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (FUM) in their deliberations today.

The meeting closed with worship.

Jeff Brown
Recording Clerk

Attachment

Report to PFF Representative meeting on Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting November 1, 2014

PFYM representative body held its first meeting on October 4th at New Garden Friends. Nineteen were in attendance including six meetings/worship groups with minutes of intention to affiliate including Charlotte, Fancy Gap, New Garden, Raleigh, Salem Creek and Upstate Worship Group. Durham and Chapel Hill, both still under discernment regarding affiliation, were also represented.

Friends shared visions for the yearly meeting that included:

- Being organic and dynamic
- With Quaker values expressed in the 21st century
- Born from a positive desire for unity and inclusiveness among NC Friends
- A house within which all the family sleeps despite our differences
- A powerful political, religious and social force in North Carolina
- That embodies a sense of change and evolving

There was a sense of hope, excitement, fear, adventure and thankfulness as we embarked on this journey together.

We reviewed the yearly meeting vision and core values statements and we were asked to reflect on the following questions and to consider how we are led in faithfulness to concrete steps that we will take to carry out the vision:

- Are you /we ready for the spiritual adventure?
- Why does 'Spirit' come first in the list of core elements
- Why is 'Quaker Practice' the second element listed before the remaining four elements of
- Consider the threads and ideas in the Vision Statement and Core elements that tie PFYM to Quaker history and tradition
- Consider threads in the Vision Statement and Core elements that related to 21st century ideas and concerns
- How can we generate engagement with issues of concern (form Community & Witness)

We considered priority tasks for the representative body in preparation for the annual yearly meeting sessions in March with particular focus on:

- A softly assembled structural framework for the yearly meeting
- The offices of the yearly meeting and recommendations for those positions
- The role of the yearly meeting representative body
- Relationships among the yearly meeting, PFF and FGC & our relationship to other Friends bodies

The yearly meeting representative body will continue to meet on Saturdays with three additional times scheduled prior to the March annual sessions. The next meeting scheduled for Saturday, December 13th at Salem Creek Meeting.

Report prepared by Marian Beane, interim clerk,
Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting representative body