

Piedmont Friends Fellowship

**Representative Body Meeting  
November 2, 2013 – 1:00**

Davidson Friends Meeting, Davidson, NC

Attending

John Hunter  
Marian Beane  
Jane Norwood  
Karen Garraputa  
Barbara Gardiner  
Tony Lowe  
Ken Bradstock  
Debbie Parvin  
Joe Graedon  
Terry Graedon  
Joan Tillitson  
Doris Wilson  
Mike Johnson  
Micah Barnhill-Wright  
Linda Hunter  
Dick Connell  
Virginia Driscoll  
John Geary  
Karen McKinnon  
Tom Kagan  
Annette Broadwell  
Jeff Brown

Meeting

Durham  
Charlotte  
Rockingham County  
New Garden  
Davidson  
Fancy Gap  
Fancy Gap  
New Garden  
Durham  
Durham  
Friendship  
Upstate  
Upstate  
Durham  
Durham  
Salem Creek  
New Garden  
Boone  
Durham  
Raleigh  
Chapel Hill  
Chapel Hill

The meeting opened after a period of silent worship.

PFF Planning Committee Report (John Hunter)

The PFF Planning Committee identified 5 committee members in March. The purpose is to organize the work needed for the Annual PFF Retreat. The committee will make another effort to meet in the next month or two to get started on planning.

Treasurer's Report (Tom Kagan)

Prior to the meeting, Bob Cooper distributed a Summary and Additions to the PFF Treasurer's report through 09-30-2013, and the Statement of Receipts and Expenditures, and the PFF Net Worth Statement (attached). The report was read at the meeting and copies distributed.

PFF Listserve Issues (Micah Barnhill-Wright)

There are no problems to report and no requests to be added to the list. Micah Barnhill-Wright is available to assist Friends as needed (see the PFF Directory for Micah's contact information).

Report of the Yearly Meeting Formation Committee (Marian Beane)

Marian Beane presented a report on progress of the Yearly Meeting Formation Committee. The committee completed a draft of proposed vision and core elements, distributed the document to member meetings, and requested comments and recommendations. PFF representatives received documents for our information. The committee will meet at the Spring Friends Meeting later this month.

The committee developed a recommendation for consideration by PFF Representative Body regarding the relationship between PFF and the Yearly Meeting. The recommendations are included in the attached report.

The committee recommends organizing common event programming and common use of human resources to avoid duplication of efforts between the Fellowship and the Yearly Meeting. The distinct difference between the Yearly Meeting and the Fellowship will be in separate Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business and in separate officers.

The Representative Body is comfortable with moving ahead with the proposed relationship structure and continuation of work on Yearly Meeting Formation. Next steps for the Formation Committee will be to review member meeting responses and comments from the Representative Body.

The committee's report is attached.

Nominating Committee Report (Marian Beane)

The Nominating Committee reports that Tom Kagan of Raleigh Friends Meeting is willing to serve on an interim basis as treasurer for PFF, but asks to be released as soon as the Nominating Committee finds a Friend to become treasurer. PFF greatly appreciates Bob Cooper's three plus years of service as treasurer and his timely reports. Approved.

Youth Programming Consultation (Karen Garraputa)

Karen Garraputa convened a group of youth and adults to discuss a vision for youth programming for PFF, a scope of work for a youth coordinator, coordination with PFF and the PFF budget, desired outcomes, and next steps. Youth programming includes events organized in addition to the Annual Retreat. A youth coordinator would bring consistency to programming. Karen Garraputa began outreach to youth programs in Yearly and Monthly Meetings to get more information about job descriptions. Minutes from the meeting are attached.

In discussion, the sense of the Body is that youth program coordination efforts should start

with high school students, and build on accomplishments to consider expanding efforts to include middle school students, not to preclude efforts by member meetings for middle school programming. The group will work on details of a job description for a person to be hired under contract and a proposed budget.

Report of FGC Central Committee Meeting (Karen McKinnon, Marian Beane, John Hunter)

PFF is a member of Friends General Conference (FGC), and participates in the FGC Central Committee and subcommittees. John Hunter, Karen McKinnon, Marian Beane, Suebear Hebner, Karen Stewart, David Bailey, and Judy Purvis attended the 3-day Central Committee meeting in October. The epistle will be available on the FGC website. Friends shared that the 2014 Gathering will be in California, PA (the theme is Let Love be the First Motion) and the 2015 Gathering will be hosted by SAYMA in Cullowee, NC. PFF will have an opportunity to participate on the planning committee for 2015.

FGC is planning a capital campaign for 2016. Of the many programs FGC provides to its constituent meetings (in addition to organizing the annual Gathering) two of the FGC working groups are related to resources for deepening faith and practice, and to forge a new vision for the FGC Bookstore in an era of declining paper book sales and online competition. Our representatives reported that staff and volunteers form a good partnership on the Central Committee and that there was an excellent spirit-led working atmosphere.

Report and Recommendation of the Visitation Committee to Fancy Gap Friends Fellowship for membership in PFF.

Barbara Gardiner reported that she, Marian Beane, and Martin Doherty traveled to Fancy Gap, VA on September 8 to meet with Fancy Gap Friends. Fancy Gap Friends Fellowship is under the care of Surry Quarterly Meeting of NCYM (FUM.) The Visitation Committee recommends that PFF welcome FGFF as a member of PFF. Approved.

The committee report is attached.

Initial Planning for PFF Annual Meeting (John Hunter)

Karen Garraputa reported that New Garden Meeting is willing and able to host the PFF Annual Meeting, and approved hosting in the September Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. The weekend is March 14-16.

A potential theme is conflict resolution. Friends agreed that this is the theme to pursue.

A potential workshop presenter is George Lakey (has conducted conflict resolution workshops and writing as well as work on racism and class issues). John Hunter will contact George Lakey.

Discussion included ideas about applying conflict resolution concepts close to home in our meetings and our families. Another issue is conflict resolution among Quakers and with Christian denominations.

The Conference Planning Committee will organize tasks related to food, teen program, children's program, registration, hospitality, publicity, Friday evening program, and bookstore.

Representatives came forth with ideas to investigate (and get cost estimates):

- Hiring someone to manage food (Karen Garraputa will follow up)
- Hiring someone to manage the teen program (youth coordinator committee is in progress)
- Guilford College students for assistance with youth programming (Karen Garraputa will contact Max Carter)

Karen Garraputa will prepare a "save the date" flyer for the Annual Meeting for distribution.

John Hunter will email a list of tasks and ask for volunteers to take on responsibilities.

### FGC Request

Each year, as part of fund raising and outreach, FGC requests membership lists and contact information from PFF member meetings. John Hunter requested that Representatives ask their respective meetings to consider the request and act accordingly. PFF needs to promote FGC in monthly meetings. FGC offers many services including estate planning. It was noted that, out of concern for privacy, some meetings have offered opt-out provisions for meeting members to be included in lists compiled for FGC.

### Future Meeting Dates

January 19, 2014 at Durham Friends Meeting

March 14-16 at New Garden Friends Meeting

April 27 – in Raleigh

June 8 – if needed in New Garden (with Meeting for Worship at Friendship Meeting)

August 24 – TBD, at one of the smaller meetings in PFF if possible

November 1 – TBD

January 18, 2015 – TBD

### Announcements

PFF Representatives greatly appreciated Scott Holmes taking time to conduct the successful workshop today. Friends agreed to send Scott an honorarium of \$200 from PFF funds.

PFF Representatives expressed appreciation to Davidson Meeting for hosting the retreat

and business meeting today.

Barbara Gosney of NCYM(C) sent a letter to PFF to announce that the annual regional meeting of the Friends World Committee for Consultation will take place April 11-13 at High Point Meeting.

The meeting closed with worship.

Jeff Brown  
Recording Clerk

Attachment

Summary and additions to the P.F.F. Treasurer's report dated 09-30-2013 for presentation at the 11-02-2013 P.F.F. Representative Meeting.

Our total cash balance has increased since the last report by \$759.06 to a new total of \$14,477.43.

Donations from Members have totaled \$1050 since our last meeting including donations from Chapel Hill and Charlotte. Other receipts consist of interest of just over \$8.

Expenditures to report since our last meeting were fir travel to FGC Executive Committee for \$300.

Since this report I have received a check from New Garden Meeting for \$243.75 which has been deposited.

Attachment

Statement of Receipts and Expenditures through 9-30-2013

Receipts

<u>Interest Income</u>	<u>\$ 28.30</u>
<u>Membership Donations</u>	
Chapel Hill Meeting	\$ 300.00
Charlotte Meeting	\$ 900.00
Durham Meeting	\$ 1,100.00
Fayetteville Meeting	\$ 100.00
Friendship Meeting	\$ 350.00
New Garden Meeting	\$ 487.50
Raleigh Friends Meeting	\$ 200.00
Rockingham County Meeting	\$ 100.00
Salem Creek Friends Meeting	\$ 75.00
Upstate	\$ 25.00
Wilkes County Meeting	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
TOTAL Receipts:Membership Donations	<u>\$ 3,687.50</u>
<u>Retreats and Workshops</u>	
<u>Spring Retreat</u>	
Attender's Fees-Spring	\$ 2,550.00
FCG Bookstore	\$ 265.83
Food and Other donations	<u>\$ 242.60</u>
TOTAL Spring Retreat	<u>\$ 3,058.43</u>
TOTAL Receipts:Retreats and Workshops	<u>\$ 3,058.43</u>
TOTAL Receipts	<u>\$ 6,774.23</u>

Expenditures

Fall Retreat:Program	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
TOTAL Fall Retreat	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
<u>General Expenditures</u>	
Donations	\$ 300.00
Donations:FCG	\$ 100.00
Donations:Quaker House	<u>\$ 200.00</u>
TOTAL Donations	<u>\$ 600.00</u>
<u>General Expenditures:Financial Assistance FGC Gathering</u>	\$ 1,450.00
<u>Other Expenditures-Bank and Office Supplies</u>	
Bank Service Charges	<u>\$ 3.00</u>
TOTAL Other Expenditures-Bank and Office Supplies	<u>\$ 3.00</u>
General Expenditures:Travel-FGC Executive Committee	<u>\$ 300.00</u>
TOTAL Expenditures:General Expenditures	<u>\$ 2,353.00</u>

<u>Expenditures:Retreats and Workshops:Spring Retreat</u>	
Children's Program	\$ 173.54
FGC Bookstore	\$ 227.35
Financial Assistance	\$ 20.00
Food	\$ 1,277.29
Housing Costs	<u>\$ 1,127.20</u>
TOTAL Expenditures-Retreats and Workshops:Spring Retreat	<u>\$ 2,825.38</u>
TOTAL Expenditures	<u>\$ 5,278.38</u>
Total Excess of Receipts over Exepnditures	<u>\$ 1,495.85</u>
Net Amounts for Spring Retreat	
From Attendance	\$ 194.57
From FGC Bookstore	<u>\$ 38.48</u>
Total Excess of Receipts over Exepnditures-Spring Retreat	<u>\$ 233.05</u>

Attachment

Piedmont Friends Fellowship Statement of Net Worth as of 9-30-2013

Account

Assets

PNC Bank	\$	6,312.18
SHCU	\$	8,165.25
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	\$	<u>14,477.43</u>
Other Assets		
Super 8	\$	-
TOTAL Other Assets	\$	-
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	<u>14,477.43</u>
LIABILITIES	\$	-
Net Worth	\$	<u>14,477.43</u>

## Attachment

### YEARLY MEETING FORMATION COMMITTEE REPORT TO PFF REPRESENTATIVE BODY

November 2, 2013

The Yearly Meeting Formation Committee (YMFC) worshiped with Charlotte Friends on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September. We gave further consideration to the draft vision and core elements document and then released it to a small working group to prepare the final wording. This document as a proposal has now been sent to the meetings and worship group who are participating in the yearly meeting formation work with a request for their consideration, discernment and response:

- \*Do the vision statement and core element statements speak to your condition?
- \* What is missing or how would you modify the statements to better reflect your sense and understanding?
- \* Is your meeting/worship group generally at ease with the direction and sense of the Yearly Meeting Formation Committee on vision and core elements for the Yearly Meeting?

A copy of the document is attached to this report for representative body's information. Because it is still being considered by meetings and worship groups it is not ready for further distribution.

The Committee took up the matter of the relationship of the yearly meeting to Piedmont Friends Fellowship and reached agreement on several core elements. The Committee asks that PFF representative body consider the following recommendations:

*That the two bodies share a common name Piedmont Friends Fellowship & Yearly Meeting*

*That the two bodies develop programs together in ways that do not duplicate efforts and that there be a continuation of mutual fellowship among all members; that the two bodies have separate and distinct officers, organization and guiding principles; that the two bodies hold separate and distinct business meetings but that the business of each is shared with the other and efforts are made to mutually support issues of common concern; individual meetings and worship groups would hold membership in the Fellowship and also in the Yearly Meeting if they desired.*

*That the body be considered 'as one' for purpose of affiliation with Friends General Conference and that efforts be made to identify appropriate representation appointments.*

*It is the sense of the YM Formation Committee that this way of proceeding will allow the yearly meeting to commence as a distinct body for the benefit of meetings seeking a yearly meeting but in a way that does not detract from the mutual programming, mutual fellowship and common relationship to Friends General Conference*

The committee will next meet with Spring Friends on First Day the 24<sup>th</sup> of November and will hear responses to the YM vision/core element proposal; hear PFF representative body's consideration of the proposed relationship of PFF & the Yearly Meeting; and give attention to YM structure and function.

Report prepared by Marian Beane, clerk Yearly Meeting Formation committee

## Attachment

### PFF YEARLY MEETING FORMATION DRAFT 10/14/13

As a Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, our primary goals are to nurture monthly meetings and worship groups by supporting spiritual growth and to witness to our collective truth in the wider world. The Yearly meeting seeks to foster a loving community of affiliated monthly meetings and worship groups by increasing and strengthening connections among their members, attenders and seekers and with other Friends organizations.

The vision includes several core elements:

*SPIRIT – The Yearly Meeting is led by the inward experience of the spirit regardless of the metaphor or descriptive language that is used to express it.*

Quakers began as a Christian movement; in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, Friends often referred to spirit as “Christ within”. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, there are many ways that Friends describe this experience. Being led by the spirit means that we strive to cultivate that sense that moves us to interact with each other in a loving way, that guides our decisions with openness to change and seeking a larger truth. We worship with an expectation of being “in the spirit,” which allows us personally and corporately to recognize both higher truths and connectedness. Cultivation of spirit compels us to work in the world with compassion and care for all of creation.

*QUAKER PRACTICE –Yearly Meeting is guided by historical traditions and by practice arising from continuing revelation tested through corporate discernment.*

Quakerism has identifiable though not dictatorial characteristics. A long-standing tenet of the Quaker faith is that the revelation of truth has not been completed in the past and new understandings arise. Discernment of clarity and truth is arrived at through worship and is based on a tradition of testimonies and on living this faith. Part of living our faith is stewardship of assets, including our time, energy, finances and the earth’s resources. Our decision-making practice is characterized by discernment through listening, waiting for way to open, openness to multiple solutions, and fearless attention to truth as revealed in the present.

*COMMUNITY & WITNESS – The Yearly Meeting fosters community within and between Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups, strengthens relationships with other Quaker organizations, and is a larger more effective witness of our truth to the wider world.*

The Yearly Meeting seeks to create a community that honors all who seek both individual and corporate spiritual truth; where there is sufficient safety for individuals and Monthly Meetings to take on challenges; where we follow in the footsteps of our founder George Fox as we “walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one.” The community provides the support that allows individuals to test leadings and to witness to the wider world. Belonging to the Yearly Meeting strengthens Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups in local, regional, national, and international recognition both within and outside the Quaker community. The Yearly Meeting also provides individuals opportunity for service and for witness through strengthened engagement with issues and individuals.

**INCLUSIVENESS** – *The Yearly Meeting, in recognition that inclusiveness enriches our spiritual lives, welcomes and affirms individuals, monthly meetings and worship groups from a wide variety of social and theological backgrounds and experiences.*

Rather than a creed to which all need subscribe, the Yearly Meeting encourages individuals to become part of the corporate experience of Quaker faith and practice. The authenticity of the experience has a historical basis of inclusiveness, which, in the 21st century, welcomes individuals with a wide range of religious traditions and practices and is affirming of diverse genders, ethnicities, sexual orientations, ages, and beliefs. The Yearly Meeting is composed of Monthly Meetings with various modes of Quaker worship, understanding that there are multiple legitimate ways to seek and experience the spirit. The Yearly Meeting supports Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups to challenge assumptions and practices that might be seen as limiting full participation.

**STRUCTURE** – *The Yearly Meeting has a simple and sufficient structure to serve the evolving vision of the Yearly Meeting constituents, remaining flexible and acknowledging that all individuals carry some truth and a responsibility for sharing that truth.*

The Yearly Meeting's establishment arises from the need of Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups for the benefits provided by a broader organization. The Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups are the source of both the people needed to do the work, and the group that determines what work needs to be done in support of Quaker practice. Structure is designed to serve the needs of constituent Monthly Meetings & Worship Groups in growth and engagement with other Friends' organizations and with witness. As a bottom-up organization, Yearly Meeting actively invites participation in decision-making and actions.

**TRANSPARENCY & OPENNESS** – *Both in practice and in appearance, the Yearly Meeting will demonstrate transparency and openness.*

The Yearly Meeting serves the needs of the Monthly Meetings effectively when all are made aware of the activities and actions of the Yearly Meeting, when activities and actions are undertaken in response to needs of the Monthly Meetings, and when communications between Monthly Meetings and the Yearly Meeting are open. The Yearly Meeting works to be open and transparent by facilitating communication in a variety of modes and styles, always being aware that individuals differ in technological abilities and inclination, their understanding of Friends' acronyms, as well as in learning styles. The Yearly Meeting encourages the use of various technologies for communication and also recognizes that personal and corporate growth is strengthened by face-to-face gatherings.

## Attachment

The Yearly Meeting Formation Committee has considered the matter of yearly meeting relationship to Piedmont Friends Fellowship and is asking the Fellowship to consider the following recommendation:

That the bodies share a common name: Piedmont Friends Fellowship & Yearly Meeting

That the two bodies develop programs together in ways that do not duplicate efforts and that there be a continuation of mutual fellowship among all members; that the two bodies have separate and distinct officers, organization and guiding principles; that the two bodies hold separate and distinct business meetings but that the business of each is shared with the other and efforts are made to mutually support issues of common concern; individual meetings and worship groups would hold membership in the Fellowship and also in the Yearly Meeting if they desired.

That the body be considered 'as one' for purpose of affiliation with Friends General Conference and that efforts be made to identify appropriate representation appointments.

It is the sense of the YM Formation Committee that this way of proceeding will allow the yearly meeting to commence as a distinct body for the benefit of meetings seeking a yearly meeting but in a way that does not detract from the mutual programming, mutual fellowship and common relationship to Friends General Conference.

Prepared for consideration by PFF representative body on 11/2/2013

## Attachment

### Report on Visit to Fancy Gap Friends

On Sunday, Sept. 8, 2013, Martin Doherty, Marian Beane and Barbara Gardiner traveled to Fancy Gap Friends, who meet in the home of Tony and Judy Lowe, high on a ridge overlooking a beautiful valley vista. We were provided with a wonderful lunch, during which we were able to informally visit and get acquainted. Following lunch, we worshipped with Fancy Gap Friends. At the rise of Meeting, we had an active discussion about PFF, including what has led Fancy Gap to seek membership in PFF, what PFF has to offer to Fancy Gap and what Fancy Gap can contribute to PFF. Fancy Gap friends seem to be well informed and clear in their leading to become a part of PFF. It is the committee's sense that they will be a welcome addition to PFF and that their request for membership be approved by PFF Representative Body.

Prepared by Barbara Gardiner

## Attachment

Minutes of Youth Program Coordinator conference call 10/29/13

Invited: 2 HSYF, 3 YAF, 3 PFF reps, 2 NGFM Youth Program staff, 1 DF Youth Program staff

### Agenda:

- Brief centering silence
- Introductions of participants – Name, Meeting, role (PFF Rep, YF member or former member, etc)
- Purpose – Discuss PFF’s interest in hiring a Youth Program Coordinator (YC), as described in minutes, above
- Vision – what do we see in a youth program that connects and spans across PFF monthly meetings/worship groups?
- Scope of work – survey of PFF monthly meetings/worship groups who have youth to engage, plan and hold events, particularly Spring Retreat (March 14 -16, 2014, to be held at New Garden Friends Meeting)
- Responsibilities & coordination with PFF – What parts of the work will YC handle, how will the YC link with PFF & with whom on PFF Rep Body?
- Budget – reasonable rate for contracting to suggest to Rep Body
- Outcomes – what are the desired results of hiring a Youth Coordinator?

### Participated:

Katie Rowlett, YAF from New Garden, has participated in HSYF, PFF Spring retreat, FGC gathering

Micah Barnhill-Wright, HSYF from Durham Friends, participates in HSYF, PFF Spring retreat, SAYF

Emma Parrish, YAF from New Garden, has participated in HSYF, FGC gathering

Jeff Brown, PFF rep from Chapel Hill Friends

Karen Garraputa, PFF rep from New Garden , moderator & recorder

### Background Information about PFF youth activities:

Katie & Micah described youth activities at previous PFF Spring retreats:

Crafts, getting acquainted activities, fish bowl, inter-generational ice breakers, free time, drum circle, physical activities such as Frisbee and capture the flag

### Estimate of potential participants:

Micah reported that Durham Friends has up to 10 HSYF, Chapel Hill is thought to have between 5 - 10 HSYF, New Garden has between 20-30 HSYF

### Vision for a PFF Youth Program: What do youth want to see happen in a PFF Youth Program?

- A balance of fun, fellowship and spiritual activities
- Opportunities to have knowledge and experience of Quakerism expanded
- Creating a place to meet other Quaker youth in our area
- Learn more about Quakerism and meeting other youth

### Ideas about what to include in PFF youth events/Spring retreat:

- More spiritually-focused activities
- More activities that engage youth to get to know one another
- Free time/unstructured time is appreciated – youth just need time to hang out and socialize

- Joint service projects
- Facebook page would be a good thing to have, but after an event has been organized – Facebook is where people connect with friends, not usually to connect with people they don't know

Scope of work of a PFF Youth Program Coordinator:

- Survey Monthly Meetings/Worship Groups to get a sense of the number of youth that may be available to participate in program, & how many participating youth are in each meeting
- Contact with one or two key or identified YF from each meeting to network & promote PFF events
- Keep track of youth activities at each meeting to publicize these & link between meetings
- Development & maintenance of PFF Youth Facebook page and possibly Twitter feed
- Development & implementation of at least 3 Youth events/activities in the next 6-8 months:
  - Lock-in or other event with a focus on connecting youth from different meetings, building community & making friends
  - Spring retreat youth program with focus on community building, spirituality & unstructured hang-out time
  - Service project
  - Trip with a large spiritual component

Coordination with PFF & Budget: It was determined that PFF representative body needs to set some expectations or guidance about these two concerns

Outcomes: What would have happened in the PFF Youth Program a year from now?

- Multiple successful events held
- Youth Coordinator in place who knows key people at all of the participating meetings
- Youth Coordinator has identified key Young Friends in each meeting
- PFF Young Friends Facebook page will be operational
- Participating youth know 2-3 Young Friends from other meetings
- Goal of 4 Monthly Meetings/Worship Groups participating in youth events
- At least 25 HS Young Friends attending the Spring retreat

How important is it to have a PFF Youth Coordinator on a scale of 0-10?  
All youth responded that it is an 8-9 in importance

All participating youth were willing to meet again if needed, and agreed that Tuesday evenings are best.

Additionally:

Karen Garraputa received information from Lizzie Biddle, young adult member of New Garden & youth program staff, about Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's youth program. Karen contacted Hannah Mayer, the PYM Young Friends Program Coordinator, and will follow up to discuss the PYM program next week. Karen also contact Emily Stewart of Durham Friends, and will follow up to discuss youth program further.