

**Piedmont Friends Fellowship  
Representative Body Meeting**

November 6, 2010

Winston Salem Friends Meeting

Friends Gathered for the Representative Body Meeting:

Tommy Kagan, Sue Adley-Warrick, Lyle Adley-Warrick (Raleigh), Wendy Michener, Robert Cooper (Fayetteville), Joan Alspaw (Salem), Karen Gauajuta, Virginia Driscoll, Patricia Sebens (New Garden), Mary Simmons, Marcie Newell (Winston Salem), Marian Beane, Jon Wilda, Jim Binford (Charlotte), Kristin Olson-Kennedy (Davidson), Jane Norwood (Rockingham), Terry Mehlman (Chapel Hill), Doris Wilson (Upstate), Sally Ferrell (Wilkes), John Hunter, Karen McKinnon (Durham).

The Meeting opened with the Treasurer's Report and Announcements pertaining to events of interest for Piedmont Friends Fellowship:

Robert Cooper presented the Treasurer's report to the PFF Rep Body and it was accepted with appreciation. The report is appended to these minutes.

Patricia Semans announced the Celebration of the Peace of God Workshop and Special Worship, an ecumenical Inter-Denominational Day. Saturday, November 20, 2010 from 9:15 to 3:30 at Guilford College United Methodist Church 1205 Fleming Road, Greensboro, N.C. Childcare is available and a Peace Camp for children over 4. Teens are included in the adult sessions. The keynote speaker is Dr. Matthew V. Johnson, Sr. The registration and forms are present on the [ncym-fun.org](http://ncym-fun.org) website. This date is 350 years since the letter of George Fox to the Governor of Barbados.

Wendy Michener announced a conference January 14-16, 2011 at Guilford College. This conference will meet Friday evening to Sunday afternoon to consider the military industrial complex in the United States and the culture of war. There is additional information on the Quaker House website.

Sue Adley-Warrick: November 18 NC Farmers Alliance Network will sponsor a kickoff event which is a Luncheon meeting in Raleigh This organization is focuses on justice and dignity for farm workers in NC. More information about this event and the work of this organization is on their website: NCFAN

Terry Mehlman announced the 2011 Midwinter Gathering of Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns at The Summit Haw River State Park February 18 - 21. Registration on the website. The title of the Midwinter Gathering Program is "Reclaiming the Past, Proclaiming the Future."  
<http://flgbtqc.quaker.org/index.html>. Terry invited PFF participation and distribution of this event to meetings.

PFF Website: Marcia Sowdray(Raleigh) maintains the website and Terry Mehlman works directly with Marcia on behalf of PFF.

PFF Listserv: The Representative Body approves the use of the listserve as a means to distribute announcements that relate to PFF to communicate events and Monthly Meetings News. Terry Mehlman sustains the listserv through Google Groups.

Nominations: The committee Lyle, Bob, Marian inquired about recording clerk positions but do not have a name at this time. The position is still open.

Terry Mehlman reported from the recent meeting of Central Committee (FGC). Central Committee serves primarily unprogrammed yearly meetings in the US and Canada and it meets yearly in Maryland in October. Every yearly meeting and association that is affiliated with FGC sends representatives. Each representative then serves on one of many subcommittees that meet throughout the year. Terry's report is appended to this report. The Executive Committee meets as the business of FGC requires. Terry Mehlman was named as the PFF representative to Executive Committee and Virginia Driscoll is the alternate. PFF representative body affirms the travel support for Terry to serve on Executive Cte.

Virginia Driscoll reported that Committee for Nurturing Ministries is a new committee that consolidates and support the work of six previous committee. Individual efforts like Quaker Quest and Godly Play will be taken on through smaller subcommittees. Christian and Interfaith Relations Committee was not folded into the Cte for Nurturing Ministries. Bruce Birchard, FGC General Secretary, will be retiring at the end of the summer and the search committee for a new FGC General Secretary will announce its work after it meets in December.

Bob Cooper led a discussion of the Peace Tax: PFF Representative Body discussed The Peace Tax Fund Bill (the information about this Bill is amended to these minutes). Rep Body requests that an AdHoc Committee prepare a Minute for approval by the larger body of PFF at the annual Gathering of PFF. Sue Lyle Adley-Warrick will bring this minute to the next Representative Body Meeting in January.

The next Representative Body Meeting will be in January 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at New Garden Friends Meeting. 9 and 11 worship. Lunch 12:30. Meeting at 1.

You're Tax Dollars at Work According to the Friends Committee on National Legislation, growth in military spending due to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and a run-away Pentagon budget outpaced even the rapid growth in spending for the huge Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid entitlement programs in the last fiscal year (FY03), the year for which we recently filed our tax returns. An estimated 41.9 percent of our federal income tax dollars were spent on past and present military activities. This is an increase over federal outlays in FY02 when roughly 40 percent of our federal income tax dollars were spent for military purposes. According to the War Resisters League, for Fiscal Year 2004, 27% (\$459 billion) of Federal Funds Outlays will be for current military expenses, and 20% (\$345 billion) will be for past military expenses, for a total of 47% (\$804 billion). The Center for Defense Information (CDI) states that, with respect to Fiscal Year 2004,

The administration of President George W. Bush is requesting \$399.1 billion for the military in fiscal year 2004 (\$379.9 billion for the Defense Department and \$19.3 billion for the nuclear weapons functions of the Department of Energy). This is \$16.9 billion above current levels, an increase of 4.4 percent. In all, the administration plans to spend \$2.7 TRILLION on the military over the next six years - and this as both the Office of Management and Budget and the Congressional Budget Office project a federal deficit as high as \$200 billion to \$300 billion next year.

CDI has some very detailed and comprehensive information about the US military budget for Fiscal Year 2004 on their web page, including links to government figures from the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Defense.

How the Peace Tax Fund Bill would work:**The Peace Tax Fund Bill would affect the "current military" portion of the U.S. budget. The Peace Tax Fund Bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code to permit taxpayers conscientiously opposed to participating in war to have their income, estate or gift tax payments spent for non-military purposes only. The Bill excuses no taxpayers from paying their full tax liability.**

Where the Peace Tax Fund money would go:The full federal taxes of conscientious objectors would be placed into a special trust fund in the Treasury, called the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund. The Treasury would be allowed to spend this money on any governmental program that does not fulfill a military purpose.

Advantages of a Peace Tax Fund

Consider...

The Peace Tax Fund Bill is a matter of conscience. While it would not immediately impact the level of military spending, passage of the Bill would have these distinct advantages:

- The Peace Tax Fund Bill would restore freedom of religion as protected in the First Amendment to those taxpayers whose religious or moral convictions forbid participation in war, whether physical or financial. This "first of the freedoms" is the cornerstone of a democratic society.
- Each publication of instructions accompanying income tax forms for 160 million taxpayers would include information about the availability of conscientious objector status. This would be a tremendous educational opportunity. Just as provisions for conscientious objection cause those in the military to weigh their consciences, so too would the Peace Tax Fund.
- The Peace Tax Fund Bill would be a meaningful step towards raising the national consciousness about misplaced military priorities. The level of usage of the Peace Tax Fund would be reported by Congress each year, and would serve as a measure of the nation's conscience regarding the inhumanity of war.
- It will be a watershed event for religious and civil liberties when a major military power acknowledges its citizens have a just claim to freedom of conscience which has been denied. In addition, it will greatly facilitate the passage of similar legislation in other countries.
- The Peace Tax Fund Bill is a win-win proposition. Conscientious objectors would be guaranteed the current military percentage of their income tax would be used only for life-affirming purposes. The government would receive more revenue from increased participation in the payment of income taxes and would spend less on the cost of forced collections.

Conscientious objection to killing in war holds a historically and legally unique place in our nation. It is like no other issue. The plight of those who object to military taxes on the basis of deeply held and universally recognized teachings is on a higher moral plane than objections based on mere political, social or economic preference. As such the Peace Tax Fund Bill would not open the door to other exceptions.

No witness for conscience is ever lost.

NC Council of Churches:

Wendy reported her conversation with George Reed of the NCCoC that explained that PFF will not join NCCoC as a body but supports the leadings of individual meetings to do so. Mr. Reed welcomes the addition of individual congregations. He will follow up with individual meetings to join NCCoC that are not already participating members. A letter to this effect for PFF member meetings was approved with appreciation. The letter will be appended to these minutes.

Wendy is preparing a North Carolina Monthly Meeting visual historical tree for circulation and review and distribution to Member Meetings.

Friends reflected on the purpose and goals of annual meeting with the hopes that the gathering be the outgrowth of the goals and vision of PFF. Cte of Kristin, Tom, Bob, and Carol.

Marian Beane reported for the Ad Hoc Cte on YM Concerns:  
Report from Ad hoc committee on Yearly Meeting Concerns  
November 6, 2010

At the 8<sup>th</sup> month meeting of the PFF representative body the ad hoc committee on yearly meeting concerns was asked to prepare a proposal for *a gathering of PFF Monthly meetings and Worship Groups to further the exploration of forming PFF as a yearly meeting and association*. To that end the ad hoc committee offers the following proposal

Purpose of the gathering: to invite a wider consideration of PFF Representative Body's preliminary exploration of forming PFF as a yearly meeting and association

The invitation:

- 1) Send to the presiding clerk of each monthly meeting and worship group that is affiliated with PFF
- 2) Asking each monthly meeting and worship group name at least two (2) representatives
- 3) Indicating that this gathering is not intended to be limited to only the named representatives, but is open to any interested member or attender of a PFF-affiliated meeting or worship group.
- 4) Indicating that additional meetings may be held as way opens

\*The committee also notes the value in sending a 'hold the date' early notice.

#### Advance documents:

- 1) Current history regarding this consideration including:
  - a. Monthly meetings expressions of interest in exploring yearly meeting affiliation led to the formation of the ad hoc committee on YM Queries
  - b. Excerpts from report/recommendations of the ad hoc committee
  - c. Appointment of the ad hoc committee on Yearly Meeting concerns including excerpts from the 8<sup>th</sup> month report/proposal
- 2) A listing of current Monthly meeting & worship group affiliations with PFF (and other Yearly Meeting affiliations)

#### Time Frame for the Gathering:

- 1) Late January to Mid February
- 2) A Sunday afternoon: 1:00-4:00 (allowing representatives to join the host meeting for worship)
- 3) Is there value in a central location (Greensboro?)

#### Gathering format

- 1) Welcome & Introductions
- 2) Brief review on history and purpose of the gathering
- 3) Time of open worship with invitation for those present to add their voices and leadings to this exploration of forming PFF as a yearly meeting and association.
- 4) Opportunity for general sharing & exploring questions (?)
- 5) Providing a sense of next steps - based on what we've heard that might include additional meetings
  - The members of the ad hoc committee is prepared to provide care for the meeting

Members of the ad hoc committee on yearly meeting concerns include:

John Hunter (Durham) Lyle Adley-Warrick (Raleigh) Debbie Parker (Durham), Bob Cooper (Fayetteville), Patricia Sebens (New Garden), Marian Beane (Charlotte)

Friends approved the Ad Hoc Cte report. Marian Beane suggested that February 6<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> as a backup and the Ad Hoc Cte will find a host Meeting. Wendy and the AdHoc will draft an invitation and send to each meeting.

Annual Meeting:

The site selection committee (David Bailey and Karen McKinnon) reported that Carolina Friends School has offered the use of the Gym as the location for Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup>. Camp New Hope will serve as the location for camping and overnight stays on Friday and Saturday and additional efforts to include homes in the area and motels will be included for travelers to the annual meeting.

At Camp New Hope the building named Fleming could serve as the location for the Friday evening potluck and registration (Durham as a backup.) More information will be forthcoming as Karen McKinnon works with Charlie Layman at Carolina Friends School.

Food Friendship Sue Hebner

Registration: Terry Mehlman

Dancing: Tom Kagan and David Bailey and caller

Book Table: Jane Norwood and Karen McKinnon

Friday night: Joan Tillotson or substitute will lead a multigenerational game

Children: Pre readers: Marian Beane (Charlotte)

Readers: Sue AdleyWarrick (Raleigh)

Teens: Durham Friends Meeting

The Representative Body closed after a moment of silence and appreciation to Winston Salem Friends Meeting.

Karen McKinnon, Recording Clerk