

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 30th 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 27th 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