

History of Piedmont Friends Fellowship's considerations around yearly meeting concerns and formation of a PFF-related yearly meeting (PFYM)

Rev 3/15/15

Note: PFF engaged in discussions regarding becoming a yearly meeting in the mid 1970s and again in the early 1990s but each time decided not to pursue this possibility.

Fall 2008: There is discussion in the PFF Representative Body Meetings in both August and October with regard to PFF's status as a Fellowship and the implications of a move toward facilitating or becoming a yearly meeting. No specific action is taken.

Summer 2009: PFF Representative body takes up the question of whether PFF would benefit by becoming a yearly meeting; Appoints an ad hoc committee to carry this concern.

February, 2010: Ad hoc committee presents an initial report to the PFF representative body on findings of queries sent to PFF monthly meetings.

March, 2010: A report on monthly meeting responses to the Queries on PFF becoming a yearly meeting affiliated w/FGC was presented at annual PFF meeting.

March 2010: PFF representative body appoints a new ad hoc committee on yearly meeting concerns to recommend a way forward on recommendations in the report

August, 2010: PFF representative body minutes support for the ad hoc committee's recommendation to: take under its care the exploration of forming PFF as a yearly meeting and association.

February 27, 2011: A special called meeting of an augmented PFF representative group meets at New Garden Friends for a wider consideration within PFF of preliminary explorations around forming PFF as a yearly meeting and association.

March, 2011: PFF Representative body asks the ad hoc committee to prepare a concrete proposal for a yearly meeting for distribution and consideration by PFF monthly meetings and worship groups.

Summer/Fall, 2011: The ad hoc committee on yearly meeting concerns prepares and seasons PFF Yearly Meeting proposal.

March, 2012: PFF annual meeting asked the ad hoc committee to post the relevant documents related to yearly meeting consideration in order that individuals as well as meetings would have opportunity to respond to the yearly meeting proposal as led.

June, 2012: Recommendations from the ad hoc committee for forming a PFF-related yearly meeting are approved by PFF representative body.

Fall/winter of 2012/13: Meetings are invited name representatives to the Yearly Meeting Formation committee regardless of their intention to affiliate.

March, 2013: Yearly Meeting Formation Committee convened at the Annual PFF Retreat and has continued to meet bi-monthly.

November, 2013: Work by the Formation Committee continues bi-monthly with draft # 6 of the Vision Statement and Core Elements circulated after the November meeting.

February 23, 2014: Several more revisions of the Vision Statement and Core Elements produced revision 8 for submission to the PFF annual meeting along with the proposed structural relationships document. Additionally it is decided to send a letter to all PFF-affiliated meetings and worship groups inviting them to discern and communicate any interest in joining the new yearly meeting to be called Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM) and if interested to appoint up to three representatives to the PFYM Interim Representative Body which would begin meeting in the fall to prepare for the first annual sessions in March of 2015.

March 2014: The Yearly Meeting Formation Committee presents their report and recommendations to the PFF annual Meeting and PFF Representative Body. The report and recommendations are well received with much enthusiasm and excitement. Support was and encouragement is offered both by PFF at its annual meeting and by the PFF Representative Body.

July, 2014: Minutes from 5 meetings and worship groups had been received indicating intention to join PFYM. (Charlotte, Fancy Gap, Salem Creek, and Raleigh were dated in 6th month, and Upstate responded affirmatively in 7th month.) Davidson and Wilkes County communicated that they will continue as members of PFF only. Two more sets of revisions to the Vision Statement and Core Elements document had now produced a document which was thought to be settled for the foreseeable future. Guidelines were drafted to assist meetings in appointing representatives to PFYM.

October, 2014: New Garden Meeting sends their minute of approval to join PFYM dated in September. The first meeting of the PFYM Interim Representative Body occurs on 10/4/14. An observer from Chapel Hill Meeting shares that CHFM was preparing to embark on a thorough meeting-wide process of discernment regarding membership in a yearly meeting.

February, 2015: By the end of February the PFYM Interim Representative Body has met four times in preparation for the first annual sessions in March. Prior to being laid down as planned in March, members of the Formation Committee continue to meet as observers and advisors to the PFYM Body throughout this time period. Spring and Friendship meetings had communicated their intention to remain PFF members only. Chapel Hill has completed its discernment process in February and sends their minute indicating that they have decided to join PFYM.

March 14, 2015: The first annual session of the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting is held at the New Garden Meeting in Greensboro, NC. In addition to representatives and members of the meetings joining the new yearly meeting, there are observers and well wishers from many other meetings present.