

## **PIEDMONT FRIENDS YEARLY MEETING**

### **Interim Meeting Recommendations to Annual Sessions, Twelfth day Third month 2016**

As approved by Interim Meeting (IM) on the Twentieth day of Second Month 2016 and prepared from the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM) Interim Meeting Minutes from that date

#### **Recommendation regarding the PFYM Policies and Procedures Handbook**

Interim Meeting, having now considered the PFYM Policies and Procedures Handbook in draft form, and having distributed it to constituent monthly meetings and worship groups for their contributions to the discernment, recommends the document as a whole to annual sessions, seeking approval of this Handbook as a working document.

A limited number of printed copies of the Handbook will be available at the Piedmont Friends Fellowship/Yearly Meeting (PFF/YM) Retreat and Sessions registration table. An electronic version is available online with Advance Documents for 2016 Annual Sessions at the PFF/YM website <http://piedmontfriendsfellowship.org/>.

The term “working document” refers to the plan for continuing work on revisions and additions to the Handbook in the coming year, and input from Friends in the yearly meeting will be welcomed.

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#### **Recommendation regarding the Annual Statistics and Status Report**

Interim Meeting recommends the attached Annual Statistics and Status Report and recommends implementing the reports on 2016 data for 2017 Annual Sessions.

A printed copy of the proposed Annual Statistics and Status Report is included in the Annual Sessions document packet. An electronic version is available online with Advance Documents for 2016 Annual Sessions at the PFF/YM website <http://piedmontfriendsfellowship.org/>.

#### **Recommendation regarding PFYM affiliation with other Quaker organizations**

Interim Meeting recommends that Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting initially affiliate with three Quaker organizations: American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), and Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). These affiliations will support the PFYM Peace & Social Witness planned structure and provide an asset toward the mission of the yearly meeting.

#### **Background and Discernment**

Annual Sessions in 2015 asked Interim Meeting to explore relationships with other Quaker organizations including AFSC, FCNL, FWCC, Quaker House, Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) and the North Carolina Council of Churches, and to bring a recommendation for these relationships and names of representatives to the 2016 Annual Session.

In its early deliberations Interim Meeting agreed to focus on Quaker organizations and that affiliation with up to three organizations was sufficient for the yearly meeting at this time. IM then considered each organization with attention to its focus, expectations for yearly meeting appointees, benefits that the yearly meeting will accrue from the relationship and what the yearly meeting would be able to bring, and potential duplication of representation already offered by PFF and its monthly meetings. Interim Meeting also came to an understanding that yearly meeting affiliation is to support the work of that organization but not include a financial contribution at this time. Most of our meetings and many individuals in our meetings regularly contribute to some or all of these organizations.

**Regarding FWCC:** The organization accepts representatives only from yearly meetings, so FWCC affiliation would be a contribution PFYM could make to our Friends community. It would provide a strong connection with the larger body of Friends, particularly to the western hemisphere through the FWCC Section of the Americas.

**Regarding FCNL:** The organization's role is to lobby Congress, bringing Quaker and religious principles to bear on legislation. In recent years FCNL has intensified its efforts to build lobbying groups among yearly meetings. Each affiliating yearly meeting is allowed up to six General Committee representatives, and FCNL is strengthened by increased participation in the General Committee. While some PFYM member meetings appoint at-large members to FCNL General Committee, PFYM affiliation would give opportunity for a greater voice for Friends in PFYM to speak to federal legislation.

**Regarding AFSC:** AFSC is a strong candidate for affiliation because of its service. While AFSC affiliation does not allow a yearly meeting position on its board, PFYM affiliation would bolster our credibility as an organization that supports peace and social witness.

**Regarding Quaker House:** There is a strong connection with Quaker House, "a child of PFF" and PFYM already has affiliation with Quaker House through PFF.

**Regarding QEW:** The work of QEW is vital and IM would hope that the yearly meeting could advocate for QEW concerns through FCNL affiliation. IM recommends keeping QEW on the list for future affiliation when the time feels right.

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## **Recommendation on PFYM relationship with Guilford College Quaker Archives**

Interim Meeting recommends that Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting join in relationship with Guilford College Quaker Archives to be the repository for PFYM records, and to work with PFF to determine what financial contribution could be made to support their archives.

### **Background and Discernment**

In making this recommendation Interim Meeting considered the following information and advice provided by Gwen Gosney Erickson, Librarian and Archivist at Friends Historical Collections Guilford College (FHC).

- The focus of FHC is on preserving a comprehensive view of (NC) Quakerism that is representative of the historic strengths and diversity within our region.

- FHC has active collaborations with NCYM (FUM), NCYM (C), and SAYMA (Southern Appalachian YM & Association)
- FHC already has active relationships with a number of monthly meetings who have had a long association with PFF
- FHC is in the process of formalizing its relationship with monthly meetings and yearly meetings given the many changes that have occurred in recent years and the growing number of meetings with different affiliations.
- This partnership includes informing meetings about the costs that are incurred by Guilford for its services and requesting that meetings consider an annual contribution (a line item in the budget) at a level that is suitable for them.
- Contributions help cover the costs for the archives assistant who has been hired to work at Guilford under the supervision of the FHC to process incoming minutes and records and to provide assistance in answering inquiries related to archive records.

Prepared by Julie Stafford, recording clerk