

**Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting Interim Meeting Minutes
Second day Fifth month 2015 at New Garden Friends Meeting**

PFYM monthly meeting and worship group representatives in attendance:

Alice Carlton	Chapel Hill Friends
Emilie Condon	Chapel Hill Friends
Naveed Moeed	Chapel Hill Friends
Marian Beane	Charlotte Friends
Julie Stafford	Charlotte Friends
Debbie Parvin	Fancy Gap Friends
Tony Lowe	Fancy Gap Friends
Dorothy Mason	New Garden Friends
Virginia Driscoll	New Garden Friends
Martin King	Raleigh Friends
John Shuford	Raleigh Friends
John Cardarelli	Salem Creek Friends

Clerk Marian Beane welcomed Friends and invited us to settle into worship. After a period of worship we had a time of checking in and sharing joys. We heard regrets of those members unable to attend today (Christina Connell, Gary Hornsby, Marshall Eddleman, Al Carwile, Bob Mers, Carol Morris and Ken Bradstock) and welcomed newcomers John Shuford, Alice Carlton, and Emilie Condon. Marian reminded us that with today's Interim Meeting we are launching the work of the new yearly meeting.

Today's agenda was reviewed and no additional items were offered.

Question was asked about the status of those monthly meetings which had not sent a minute in response to the invitation to affiliate with PFYM. Clerk informed us that Durham Meeting is in a process of discernment. Besides Durham, only Spring and Friendship meetings have not yet provided a minute. Clerk was asked and agreed to communicate with Spring and Friendship, requesting a minute or a sense from the meeting clerk about where their meeting is in the process of discernment.

Question was asked about how the worship groups Catawba and Upstate will be represented. As both are under the care of Charlotte Friends, the Charlotte representatives will inquire about their preference – to be represented by Charlotte representatives or to appoint representatives from the worship group. It was noted that Upstate has sent representatives as often as possible during the two years of Formation and Interim Representative Body meetings.

Annual Session Minutes from March 14, 2015 meeting were considered and approved with the following changes:

1. The names and meetings of those present will be included in the body of the minutes
2. The name of the recording clerk will be indicated at the end of the document
3. The traditional form will be used to indicate the meeting date in the document heading, and more usual contemporary form for dates will be used in the document body. There was substantial consideration around this decision, with the intention that this will be standard usage in PFYM documents. It was expressed that use of the traditional form connotes respect

for and being mindful of Quaker tradition and, for some of us, reflects the spiritual guidance behind the document's creation. The use of the contemporary dating form in the body of the document speaks to our also being mindful of the value of clear communication within our inclusive body.

When these changes are made, these minutes and the attachments will be sent for posting on the PFF/PFYM website. It was noted that proper archiving of our documents needs to be addressed, and that we have knowledgeable Friends in the yearly meeting to provide service in this area.

2015 Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting Epistle

The Epistle draft was reviewed and approved with the following changes, and the revised version is attached to these minutes:

1. The heading will conform to the new standard dating format
2. To provide clarity, the first sentence will be amended to read, "In a spirit of joy and anticipation, and after years of discernment Piedmont Friends Fellowship was led to take under its care the formation of a new yearly meeting," moving the underlined phrase from the end of the sentence.
3. Fancy Gap will be noted as a Virginia meeting
4. The Epistle will be sent over the signature of the Presiding Clerk

It was agreed that distribution will be electronic, and recipients will be: all PFF meetings and worship groups, each FGC yearly meeting, NCYM-FUM, NCYM-C, Evangelical Friends International, FGC, FUM, Ohio Yearly Meeting-C, Iowa Yearly Meeting-C, Western yearly meetings, Friends Journal, AFSC, FCNL, and FWCC.

Report from the ad hoc Peace and Social Concerns Witness Working Group (Naveed Moeed)

Naveed reported that a group of 18 interested people representing Charlotte, Chapel Hill, Durham, Raleigh, and Salem Creek meetings met during the PFF Spring Retreat in the evening following Annual Session. Interest in the following concerns within North Carolina was spoken: mental health, return assistance (from military deployment or incarceration), homelessness, and diversity within Quaker organizations. The ad hoc group requests to be approved by Interim Meeting as a working group of the yearly meeting. They have ideas about creating an on-line forum and working from regional action hubs. The group's full report is attached to these minutes.

Interim Meeting approved the establishment of the Peace and Social Concerns Witness Working Group, with Naveed Moeed and John Shuford as co-conveners. We would like to add two additional people to the core working group. Representatives are asked to bring suggested names of individuals from their meetings for these positions to our next IM meeting. Participation in the working group is open to Friends from all PFF meetings.

Guidance and Directives from Annual Session

1. Establish a working group on monthly meeting statistical and status reports

The clerk suggested that a good first step in considering the collection of statistical and status reports would be to research how other yearly meetings go about this – What data do they collect? What format do they use? How do they communicate these requests to monthly meetings? What process do they use? Friends agreed with this suggestion, and several will work on the collection of this information:

Virginia will contact Lake Erie Yearly Meeting;

John Shuford will get information from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting;

John Cardarelli will contact Northern Yearly Meeting;

Martin will contact Canadian Yearly Meeting; and

Tony will get information from NCYM-FUM.

Julie will receive reports from the researchers and create a summary report for consideration at the next Interim Meeting.

2. Explore relationships with Quaker organizations and bring recommendations for these and names of representative to next annual session. Organizations suggested: AFSC, FCNL, FWCC, Quaker House, Quaker Earthcare Witness, NC Council of Churches.

Friends agreed we should consider these organizations with the following questions:

- a. What is the focus of the organization?
- b. What is the expectation the organization has for yearly meeting appointed representatives (e.g., number of meetings at which attendance is expected, financial contributions)?
- c. What is seen as the benefit to a yearly meeting of a relationship with this organization?
- d. (For the researcher) Would a yearly meeting relationship with this organization merely duplicate the representation already offered by PFYM and PFF monthly meetings?

Friends volunteered to take the following assignments:

FWCC – Tony Lowe

NC Council of Churches

– Virginia Driscoll

FCNL – Dot Mason

AFSC – Emilie Condon

Quaker Earthcare Witness

– John Cardarelli

Quaker House – Alice Carlton

John Cardarelli will be in contact with these Friends around his collecting and summarizing their reports.

3. Continue development of the Policy and Procedures Handbook

Marian informed us that Christina Connell is willing to continue service as clerk of the Policy and Procedures Handbook working group. We approved this on-going work and Christina's continuing as clerk with appreciation to Christina for this service. Other members of the working group have been Gary Hornsby, Naveed Moeed, Julie Stafford, and Marian Beane, ex officio.

How do we communicate with our meetings and worship groups? In noting that our working groups are open to participation from others within PFF meetings and worship groups, we realize we will need to consider this as we develop a communication plan. What role do we carry as

representatives in this communication? What role do working group clerks carry? Reports from working groups will be attached to our minutes; should there be more information carried in the minutes? What role will the website play? These queries will be held for later consideration.

4. Develop a Nominating Committee to do this work

Clerk informed us that Dorothy Mason is willing to serve as Nominating Committee Clerk for one year. We gave strong approval to this nomination.

Clerk will appoint a naming committee to nominate other members of the Nominating Committee in consultation with members of PFYM, as provided in the Policy and Procedures Handbook.

Interim Meeting Date

Friends agreed to schedule at least three additional Interim Meetings before the 2016 Annual Sessions, perhaps in summer, fall, winter and early spring (late Feb). We also agreed to a goal of having a meeting concurrent with a PFF Representative Body meeting once during this year.

August 29, 2015, a Saturday, was approved as the next Interim Meeting, at New Garden Friends if available. The remainder of the schedule will be set up at the August meeting.

Appreciation

Friends are grateful to New Garden Friends for their generosity in providing us a comfortable and central space in which to meet.

Meeting closed with a period of worship.

After the rise of meeting, as we gathered for a photograph, thought was raised that we communicate with **Baltimore Yearly Meeting** our holding them with care and concern as their community seeks a way to heal from recent unrest. The sense of the Interim Meeting was with this action, and clerk agreed to convey this message to BYM.

-Julie Stafford, recording clerk