

**Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting Interim Meeting Minutes
Twenty-ninth day Eighth month 2015 at New Garden Friends Meeting**

PFYM monthly meeting and worship group representatives in attendance:

Alice Carlton	Chapel Hill Friends	Bernard McNamera	
Emilie Condon	Chapel Hill Friends		New Garden Friends
Naveed Moeed	Chapel Hill Friends	Dorothy Mason	New Garden Friends
Marian Beane	Charlotte Friends	Chandlee White	New Garden Friends
Katherine Metzso	Charlotte Friends	Martin King	Raleigh Friends
Julie Stafford	Charlotte Friends	John Shuford	Raleigh Friends
Debbie Parvin	Fancy Gap Friends	John Cardarelli	Salem Creek Friends
Tony Lowe	Fancy Gap Friends	Christina Connell	Salem Creek Friends
Virginia Driscoll	New Garden Friends	Gary Hornsby	Salem Creek Friends
Brianna Higgins	New Garden Friends	Victoria Wellborn	Upstate Friends

Marian Beane welcomed Friends and invited us to settle into worship. After a period of worship we had a time of checking in and brief sharing of news. We heard regrets from Carol Morris and Ken Bradstock, unable to join us today, and welcomed new representatives Katherine Metzso, Brianna Higgins, Chandlee White, and Victoria Wellborn. Other Friends joining us today were Lois Ann Hobbs from Chapel Hill, Kristin Barnhardt from Salem Creek, and Karen Garraputa from New Garden Friends.

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

Minutes of Interim Meeting on May 8, 2015, were approved as distributed and will be sent for posting on the PFF/YM website.

Question was asked about creating an archive for yearly meeting documents at Friends Historical Society at Guilford College. Friends agreed to hold that concern for consideration at our next meeting.

Clerk’s Report

- As we know, the Epistle was distributed widely among North American Friends. Marian has received responses from as far away as Britain Yearly Meeting.
- Marian attended Philadelphia Yearly Meeting this summer. She spoke to them of our new yearly meeting being at the other end of the continuum in history from PYM, and of our gratitude for what is offered to us to learn from the experience of other yearly meetings like theirs.
- PFYM was recognized at the Gathering this year.
- John Hunter, clerk of Piedmont Friends Fellowship (PFF), and Marian prepared a communication to Friends General Conference to clarify the relationship among PFF, PFYM, and FGC. Both clerks will be listed by FGC, and both bodies will have jointly appointed representatives to Central Committee. This clarification was appreciated by FGC.

- As requested in May Interim Meeting, Marian contacted Friendship and Spring Meetings regarding their status on discernment around the invitation to PFYM. No response has been received from either meeting.
- Marian contacted worship groups Catawba and Upstate to learn of their preference in representation in Interim Meeting. Upstate appointed a representative, Victoria Wellborn, who is with us today. Catawba has not responded with the name of a representative, and we believe they intend to be represented through Charlotte Friends.
- Marian had a discussion with John Hunter and Kathy Staley (Raleigh) regarding the PFF/PFYM website.
 - Our engaging together with PFF requires on both parts tenderness, openness and flexibility; we need to stay mindful of this as we move forward.
 - It would be helpful for an additional person from PFYM to assist with work on the website. Clerk asks that Friends stay open to how we are led to work as we move forward.

Friends thanked Marian for these communications on our behalf. Naveed will be traveling to Britain in the near future, and can convey our thanks for their encouraging response to our Epistle. It was suggested and approved that Clerk provide a **travelling minute** for Naveed.

Reports for Action

Proposed names for Naming Committee (Marian Beane, clerk)

The Naming Committee task is to work with member monthly meetings to bring five names of people to serve on nominating committee in staggered terms. John Cardarelli has been named as clerk, and Karen Garraputa (New Garden), Jan Hutton (Chapel Hill), and Martin King (Raleigh) have also agreed to serve. Friends approved this naming committee. The nominating committee will need to be presented at our November meeting, for sufficient time to prepare a report for annual session in March.

Representative to FGC Central Committee (Dot Mason, Nominating)

Dot brought forth the nomination of Lori Fernald Khamala as a representative to FGC Central Committee, the governing board of FGC. This is a joint PFF/YM appointment and Lori's nomination had been previously approved by the PFF representative body. Lori was raised in Charlotte Friends Meeting and became a member of that meeting at a young age. She now works in Greensboro for AFSC in the Immigrant Solidarity program and is active in Friendship Meeting, having been a committed Friend for many years. Friends approved this nomination with enthusiasm.

Other PFF/PFYM representatives to FGC Central Committee are Tony Lowe (Fancy Gap) and Karen McKinnon (Durham).

Working Group Reports

Policy & Procedures Advance Report (Christina Connell)

The working group is preparing additions to the basic policy and procedures handbook approved at annual session in March. They anticipate presenting a table of contents and up to five additional sections at Interim Meeting in November. Friends are advised that this work will be distributed in advance of our November meeting, with guidance on how they might do the homework to prepare for consideration of the material at the meeting.

(Report attached)

Question was raised about our anticipated future relationship with PFF, and whether we have made sufficient welcome to PFF members who might want to be involved in our work and observe our meetings. The sense is that we are easy with our relationship at this time, and are open to how it may evolve. We are tender about the balance between offering welcome and appearing to be recruiting. It was approved that Marian should seek a conversation with John Hunter to guide us in maintaining this balance.

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

This first reading of a report from this working group proposed a framework creating a vehicle for social witness in the yearly meeting and including other PFF meetings. Key concepts include Concerns, Concerned Friends, Concerned Meetings and Geographic Clusters, which are proposed to be used to focus actions on issues of priority for Friends across the yearly meeting and PFF. In the framework presented, individuals and meetings could choose the level of involvement with a shared concern as they are led. Friends approved the key concepts presented in this report. The proposed email to go to PFYM/PFF monthly meetings will be redrafted for review at next Interim Meeting and PFF Representative Body meetings in November. This timing will allow for preparation and seasoning by both PFF and PFYM. In the interim the Working Group invites additional comments on the text of the report (draft report attached).

Several Friends expressed appreciation to Naveed and John for their careful and thorough work. Particular appreciation was expressed for the structure that will allow a continuum of involvement by Friends. Kathy Metzko joined this working group.

Research Projects Reports and Next Steps

Toward a working group on monthly meeting statistical and status reports (Julie Stafford)

Interim Meeting is considering a recommendation to Annual Session to collect statistical and status information annually from constituent monthly meetings. The purpose of this research is to provide guidance to a working

group whose task will be to create a form for use in collection of that information.

Julie presented a chart (attached) summarizing information from Lake Erie, Northern, NCYM-FUM, and Philadelphia Yearly Meetings on the information they request annually from their monthly meetings. This information was collected by Virginia Driscoll, John Shuford, Tony Lowe, and John Cardarelli.

Friends had positive reactions to the statistical and contact information the yearly meetings collect, and to the guidance offered to monthly meetings for developing state of the meeting reports. Friends want the information collected to be easy for meetings to provide and useful in helping the yearly meeting assist and support monthly meetings.

Debbie Parvin and Brianna Higgins came forward for the working group on monthly meeting statistical and status reports, and Friends accepted their offer of service with gratitude. Julie agreed to be available as a resource to support this work. They are asked to create a draft form and text to guide monthly meetings in completing the form and send it to the clerk for distribution in advance of our November meeting.

Toward relationships with other Quaker organizations - interim report (John Cardarelli)

Interim Meeting's charge is to prepare a set of recommendations regarding Quaker organizations for yearly meeting affiliation. This report will be on research on the focus, expectation of representatives, and added benefit of relationship with AFSC, FCNL, FWCC, Quaker House, NC Council of Churches, and Quaker Earthcare Witness. John reports that not all research has been sent to him, and Friends who offered to do this research are asked to please get the information to John.

Other Considerations

Next meeting dates for Interim Meeting were set on November 14 and February 20.

Annual Sessions 2016 will be during the weekend of **March 11 - 13**, during the PFF Spring Retreat. Carolina Friends School is being considered for the location; Max Carter will be the featured program speaker discussing Quaker Social Action.

Concern was raised about the possibility of having two, shorter, sessions at annual sessions. The possible benefits and feasibility of this idea will be considered.

PFF/YM Website needs a web Friend for the yearly meeting. Clerk requested we supply names of those from our meetings who might be interested in supporting this work.

Keeping monthly meetings informed about the work of Interim Meeting. Friends committed to be on our monthly meetings' agenda to

report about Interim Meeting. We will also consider offering a query in advance of annual sessions.

Appreciation

Friends are grateful to New Garden Friends for their generosity in providing us a comfortable and central space in which to meet, and to Dot for the blueberry dessert she prepared for us. Clerk thanked us for our faithful deliberations as we move forward in a spirit-led way, and clerk was thanked for her guidance and leadership.

Meeting closed with a period of worship.

Julie Stafford, recording clerk