

Piedmont Friends Fellowship Yearly Meeting Formation Committee Minutes
23 February 2014 at Salem Creek Meeting

In attendance:

Marian Beane*	Charlotte Friends
John Hunter	Durham Friends
Julie Stafford**	Charlotte Friends
Christina Connell	Salem Creek Friends
Dorothy Mason	New Garden Friends
Debbie Parvin	New Garden Friends
Martin King	Raleigh Friends
John Cardarelli	Salem Creek Friends
Dee Edelman	Salem Creek Friends
Dick Connell	Salem Creek Friends

*Clerk ** acting Recording Clerk

The meeting began with a period of silent worship. We shared news of some committee members not able to meet with us today, and checked in briefly.

Committee minutes:

- The minutes of 11/24/13 were approved as revised.
- The minutes of 01/26/14 were approved with two minor edits: addition of a second asterisk before “acting Recording Clerk” and deletion of ending “should be” in bullet on page four. The committee noted our thanks to Carol Morris for the good job she did on these minutes.

Proposed revision of Spirit Core Statement descriptive paragraph. The Committee approved the proposed revision after slight revision to read as follows:

“Quakerism began in the 17th century as a Christian movement; Friends often referred to spirit as “the Christ within” or “the inward light.” While Christian expressions of spirit continue to be central for many Friends in the 21st century, Friends feel led to describe their experiences in a variety of ways.”

Proposed revision of the Vision Statement and Core Elements Purpose Summary. The Committee made minor revision to the proposal presented by Christina, and approved the following:

“The Vision Statement and Core Elements are intended to assist the new Yearly Meeting and its affiliated monthly meetings and worship groups. This document launches us on a new spiritual adventure. We seek to be guided by spirit, through continuing study and prayer, to broaden our

understanding of Quaker history and principles; to deepen our experience of Quaker worship, faith, and practice; to foster a loving and inclusive community; to foster a loving and inclusive fellowship; to provide opportunity to connect with the wider Quaker community; and to strengthen our service and witness in the broader world.”

Friends requested that the whole Vision Statement and Core Elements (with Purpose Summary as an introduction) be sent out to Committee members as currently revised, and Marian agreed to do so before March 2 to accommodate sharing at first week business meetings.

Tasks and events timeline. After discussion on each item, the Committee agreed on the timeline and content as follows:

1. PFF and YM Information Session, one hour information session on March 15 in the 3:30-5:30 time frame at the 2014 PFF Spring Retreat. This is an opportunity for conversation for interested people asking about the yearly meeting. Some items of information we will use
 - a. Vision Statement and Core Elements
 - b. Two-page information piece on relationships among PFF, PFYM and FGC
 - c. Sense of the timeline being proposed
2. Report to PFF Representative Body at the Annual Meeting on March 16. This report will include
 - a. our Vision Statement and Core Elements
 - b. our recommendation that the names be Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Yearly Meeting (replacing Piedmont Friends Fellowship) and Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting
 - c. our recommended timeline of events
 - d. our clarification of the relationships among Piedmont Friends Fellowship, Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, and Friends General Conference (two-page information sheet)
 - e. our recommendation that the Yearly Meeting Formation Committee continue to be active for another year, providing support and guidance to the new yearly meeting until the first yearly meeting annual sessions at the 2015 Spring Retreat, with the plan to be laid down at the 2015 PFF Annual Meeting
3. Letter of Invitation to join Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting to PFF monthly meetings and worship groups. This letter will be sent jointly by John Hunter as Clerk of Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Marian Beane as Clerk of the PFF Yearly Meeting Formation Committee.
 - a. We plan for this letter to be sent in April.
 - b. Meetings will be asked to submit a copy of the minute from their business meeting stating intention to join the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting and the names of up to three representatives to PFYM Representative Body
4. September 2014 - First convening of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting Representative Body

5. March 2015 – First Annual Sessions of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting

Our Committee affirmed that observing visitors will be welcomed at all meetings of this Committee and of the new yearly meeting.

Our Committee plans to continue to meet approximately bi-monthly to research and develop guidance for the new yearly meeting, e.g., what core yearly meeting functions might best be considered and addressed first? We anticipate that the new yearly meeting representative body will be working between September 2014 and March 2015 to prepare for the first Annual Sessions.

John Hunter would like feedback on the Venn Diagrams distributed earlier.

Next Meeting: first day May 18 at New Garden Meeting at 1:00 pm (brown bag our lunch).

Meeting closed with a period of silent worship.