

In attendance:

Marian Beane*	Charlotte Friends
Carol Morris**	Raleigh 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

*Clerk

** Acting Recording Clerk

Agenda:

1. Opening worship
2. Time of spiritual sharing and important notes
3. Committee Minutes for 9/28/13 and 11/24/13
4. Consider revised Vision & Core Values statement
5. Consider proposed summary/purpose statement
6. Elements for the Yearly Meeting organization, structure and guiding principles including: officers, core committees, affiliation process for monthly meetings and worship groups, finances, and affiliation with other Quaker bodies
7. Report from PFF Representative Body on any considerations related to the Yearly Meeting
8. Next meetings:
 - a. February 23rd
 - b. March 15th (Sat afternoon) at New Garden Friends, site of the PFF Spring Meeting
9. Any other matters
10. Closing worship

The meeting began with a few moments of silence.

Committee minutes:

- The minutes for 9/28/13 were approved as written
- Changes were recommended for the minutes for 11/24/13. The revised minutes will be sent to the committee via email, and brought to the next meeting for approval.

Proposed Vision Statement and Core Elements:

- Three questions remained after the most recent revision to the Proposed Vision and Core Elements statements
 - o The committee approved the following changes:
 - Change from “dictatorial” to “dogmatic” in Quaker Practice section

- Grammar revision in first sentence in Inclusiveness section
 - Change from “issues of concern” to “issues” in last sentence of Community & Witness section
- The question was raised as to whether the committee had tried too hard to leave references to God and Christ out of the document; that by trying to be inclusive, the committee had perhaps left out those for whom God and Christ were central aspects. After discussing options, it was decided that a smaller group consisting of Christina, John Hunter, John Cardarelli, and Dot Mason would work on the wording and bring the revision back to the next meeting on February 23, 2014.

Proposed Summary/Purpose statement:

- Christina and Marian had crafted a summary purpose statement to more fully explain the relationship between the vision statement and the core elements.
- The committee agreed that it would be helpful to add such a statement, either to the beginning, to act as a bridge between the vision statement and the core elements, or to the end, to act as a summary statement. Minor edits were recommended; Christina will send the revised summary purpose statement to the committee via email for comment.

Before moving on to the discussion of the structure for the Yearly Meeting, the committee was asked for any further comment on the document describing the relationship of the Yearly Meeting to Piedmont Friends Fellowship. The concern from the November meeting about the wisdom or benefit of distributing the relationship document to individual PFF meetings and for comment was asked. It was felt that this was a matter for PFF to labor with rather than the Yearly Meeting Formation Committee. John Hunter responded indicating that it was his sense that the representative body's deliberations and affirmation of the document was sufficient for us to move forward on this understanding.

Carol reported a request for clarification from Raleigh Friends Meeting of the relationship between those meetings that participate in the Yearly Meeting and Friends General Conference. A discussion ensued regarding the relationships among PFF and the Yearly Meeting and other Quaker organizations. This discussion and the one that followed regarding the potential structure of the Yearly Meeting led to the consideration of an alternate name for the Yearly Meeting, to differentiate it somewhat more from Piedmont Friends Fellowship, while still retaining some of the connection. One option under consideration is “Piedmont Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.”

A diagram was drawn to illustrate the relationships:

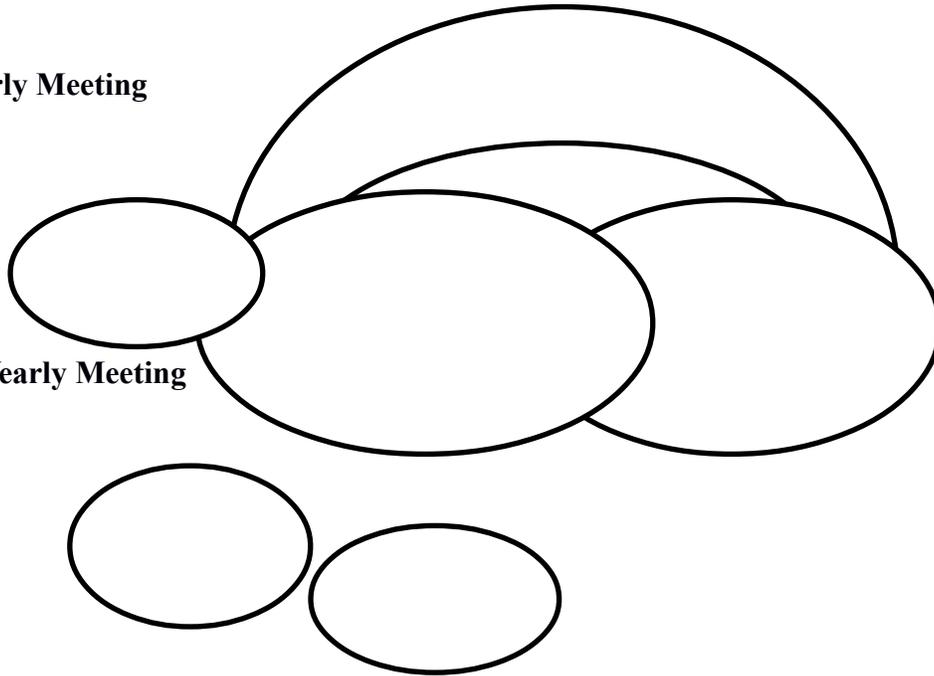
FGC

PFF & Yearly Meeting

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Piedmont Yearly Meeting

NCYM-C



This diagram is intended to illustrate that, for all intents and purposes, PFF & Piedmont Yearly Meeting is to be considered as one body in its relationship to FGC Meetings belonging to FUM or to North Carolina YM-Conservative, or that remain independent, may also have relationships with PFF, outside the “umbrella” of PFF & Yearly Meeting. (It should be noted that the name “Piedmont Yearly Meeting” is still under consideration.

Organization, Structure, Guiding Principles of the Yearly Meeting:

- The question was raised as to whether the Yearly Meeting should adopt a structure similar to that being used by another yearly meeting or decide on the core structure that seems appropriate for our yearly meeting elements. We were encouraged to “organize gently.”
- It was decided that, at this time, the committee should focus on the handbook aspects, rather than the Faith & Practice aspects, as it was thought that the latter should evolve from the Yearly Meetings spiritual experience as it develops.
- The following was recommended as an initial structure:
 - o Clerk
 - o Recording clerk
 - o Treasurer
 - o Representatives to be appointed by the Monthly Meetings to the Yearly Meeting’s Representative Body. This body would then act as a nominating committee for the above offices
 - It was also decided that Monthly Meetings could choose whether the representatives to PFF and to the Yearly Meeting should be different people or the same representatives to both.

Next steps:

- The committee will reflect on:
 - o What the start point should be for the Yearly Meeting should be
 - o The name for the Yearly Meeting
- It was recommended that Marian (Clerk of the YM Formation Committee) and John Hunter (Clerk of PFF) create joint message to all PFF meetings and worship groups to help in the launch of the yearly meeting and invite meetings to confirm their intentions. This joint communication will be finalized after the February meeting.
- It also seemed that it would not be possible to “launch” the Yearly Meeting in time for the PFF Spring Meeting in March; however, a report will be prepared which will provide information and opportunity for those present to learn more about the Yearly Meeting and the PFF/Yearly Meeting relationship.
- The February meeting will also focus on recommendations to be made to the new Piedmont Yearly Meeting’s Representative Body.

Next meeting dates and locations:

- **February 23, 2014 – Salem Creek Friends**
- **March 15th – at PFF Spring Meeting, New Garden Friends**

Special thanks to New Garden Friends Meeting for hosting our meeting and providing lunch.

The meeting closed with a period of silence.