

**Joint Meeting of Piedmont Friends Fellowship (PFF) Representative Body and
Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM) Interim Meeting
Twentieth day, eighth month, 2016, at Raleigh Friends Meeting**

PFF and PFYM monthly meeting and worship group representatives, clerks and observers in attendance:

Jeff Brown PFF	Chapel Hill Friends	Sally Freeman, observer	Hillsborough Friends
Dylan Buffum PFF	Chapel Hill Friends	Karen McKinnon PFF	Hillsborough/Durham
Alice Carlton YM	Chapel Hill Friends	Larry Barker, observer	Hillsborough Friends
Emilie Condon YM	Chapel Hill Friends	Virginia Driscoll alt	New Garden Friends
Naveed Moeed YM	Chapel Hill Friends	Chandlee White YM	New Garden Friends
Marian Beane YM	Charlotte Friends	Craig Daniel PFF	Raleigh Friends
Martin Doherty PFF	Charlotte Friends	Martin King YM	Raleigh Friends
Julie Stafford YM	Charlotte Friends	Carol Morris YM	Raleigh Friends
John Hunter PFF	Durham Friends	John Shuford YM	Raleigh Friends
Debbie Parvin YM	Fancy Gap Friends	Rudy Zalesak PFF	Raleigh Friends
Paul Klever, observer	Hillsborough Friends	Christina Connell YM	Salem Creek Friends

Bill Moore (Raleigh Friends), the PFYM American Friends Service Committee representative; and Jan Schmidt (Raleigh Friends), the PFYM Friends Committee on National Legislation representative were also in attendance. Also joining us for this meeting Barbara Gosney, Rich Square Meeting, North Carolina Yearly Meeting Conservative and Eduardo Diaz, Miami Friends, SEYM, both of the Friends World Committee on Consultation Section of the Americas Visiting Committee to PFYM.

Meeting began with a period of silent worship.

Friends were welcomed by Marian Beane, PFYM presiding clerk, who noted the historic first joint meeting of PFF and PFYM representative bodies. We appreciate this time to worship together, get to know each other, and consider matters that we hold in common.

Marian introduced others serving at the clerks table, including Jeff Brown, PFF presiding clerk and Julie Stafford, PFYM recording clerk. We then introduced ourselves in turn by name, meeting, the role engaged in that brings us here today, and one thing that brings us joy.

Regrets were received from Tony Lowe (Fancy Gap), John Cardarelli (Salem Creek), Ted and Melissa Edgerton (Wilkes), Gary Hornsby (Salem Creek), Dot Mason (New Garden), Kathy Metzko (Charlotte), and Jane Carter (New Garden). We proceeded, holding those not with us today.

Items jointly held by PFF and PFYM for consideration

Abingdon Friends Meeting (Virginia) request for affiliation.

Kathy Walker, clerk of Abingdon Friends Meeting, sent the following on July 29, 2016 to Jeff Brown, clerk of PFF, and Marian Beane, presiding clerk of PFYM:

“Please accept this as a letter of request for affiliation with PFF and PFYM. After several months of contemplating, our Meeting has settled with wishing to become a part of your Meetings. Abingdon

Friends Meeting is now affiliated with Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM) and will remain so until we, as a Meeting, determine when to end that affiliation.

“It is the sense of our Meeting that we would benefit greatly by being within PFF and PFYM, and hopefully we will be able to contribute in some way that would make a difference to both. Our purpose in requesting this affiliation is that you are so much closer to us geographically and would inspire more participation in something greater than our small Meeting. BYM is hundreds of miles away from us and we find it difficult (and by their own admission BYM finds it difficult to include us) to participate in activities.

“We look forward to a visit from you. . . .”

Christina Connell then read the applicable section from the *PFYM Policies and Procedures Handbook*:

Process for New Meetings Which Are Unaffiliated with PFF

1. If a monthly meeting asks to affiliate with PFYM, PFYM would verify that they are prepared to also affiliate with PFF.
2. A monthly meeting or worship group not already affiliated with PFF would request affiliation through a letter to the clerks of both PFF and PFYM, who will confer about the appointment of a joint clearness committee. The clearness committee will meet with the monthly meeting and have worship with them, provide orientation to the PFYM documents including the vision statement, core elements, and PFF/PFYM relationship, and provide an opportunity for inquiry and response.
3. The clearness committee will report back to both PFF and PFYM. If the report is favorable, the meeting will be asked to provide a minute of intention to affiliate that will be brought to annual sessions of both PFF and PFYM.

Friends agreed we are ready to receive the letter from Abingdon Friends requesting affiliation. A clearness committee will be appointed by the PFF and PFYM clerks to assist Abingdon Friends with their discernment. It is hoped that the clearness committee might report back at our November (PFF) and December (PFYM) meetings. Friends approved this plan and timing. Clerks will respond to the letter and notify Abingdon Friends of this action. Clerks will also communicate to PFF and PFYM representatives around who is serving on the clearness committee.

Order of Activity for 2017 Annual Retreat and Yearly Meeting Sessions

Friends reviewed the order of activity at the 2016 retreat weekend and made suggestions about possible adjustments. PFYM Interim Meeting had previously discussed the integration of yearly meeting annual sessions with the retreat, and expresses comfort with the schedule used in 2016 and appreciation for the opportunity to have annual sessions in conjunction with the retreat. Friends in the joint meeting agreed that we are comfortable with integrating the yearly meeting annual sessions in the retreat, and with the schedule in general, with some adjustments to be made by PFF on items lifted up in this discussion, and as suits the final program plans.

PFF will continue to hold the work of the planning of the annual retreat, including identifying tasks and meeting responsibilities. Some meeting assignments for 2017 have already been accepted. PFF is still open to hearing ideas for the adult program.

Friends were reminded that the PFF Fall Retreat will be held on November 5 at Charlotte Friends. The topic will be *Helping our Victims of War at Home*, presented by hotline counselors and others from Quaker House in an interactive workshop format. Fellowship that day will begin at 9 am, with the program from 10-12. Lunch will be served after the program.

PFF/YM archives at Guilford College (report on current status and respective tasks)

Chandlee White and PFF/YM clerks Jeff Brown and Marian Beane have worked with Gwen Gosney Erickson on arrangements around the archives. Next steps include:

- a. PFF will take up the matter of determining the amount of the PFF/YM contribution, expected to be in the \$200-250 range.
- b. The PFF/YM presiding clerks will provide Gwen Erickson with lists of member meetings and affiliations, including yearly meeting affiliations.
- c. PFF and PFYM presiding clerks will communicate with Gwen separately about our respective records.
- d. Gwen is creating a minute of understanding with PFYM around the new PFYM archive.

Meeting representatives might note that Gwen Erickson has sent out mailings to most if not all of our monthly meetings regarding what is currently on file and what is not in the archive. Monthly meetings are expected to work directly with Gwen on their meeting archives.

Management of Joint PFF/YM website

John Hunter, Jeff Brown (PFF), and Chandlee White (PFYM) are the Friends who manage and post on the joint PFF/YM website. Friends with suggestions and offers of assistance are asked to please share their ideas and expertise so we can have a useful, productive and efficient site.

Appointed representative responsibilities and financial support (see attached paper by John Hunter)

PFF and PFYM work together to name representatives to Friends General Conference. Those appointed represent both PFF and PFYM and are asked to report to both bodies. In addition, the yearly meeting has discerned to name representatives to FCNL and AFSC (Jan Schmidt and Bill Moore, who are with us today). Funding to assist in representatives' travel will come from PFF, to which all our meetings contribute.

It is suggested we establish guidelines addressing

- our expectations of appointed representatives to organizations in the wider body of Friends,
- how we intend to support these representatives, and
- what costs might be involved with this service and the level of financial support available.

Friends approved going forward with jointly developing such Friendly guidelines, agreeing that both PFF and PFYM would hold these as their guidelines.

Karen McKinnon, Craig Daniel, Martin King and Dylan Buffum stepped forward with interest and willingness to be part of a small working group on these guidelines. They are asked to confer about the lead person on this working group and to report back to both bodies at the November/December meetings if possible --in time for representative body discernment prior to annual sessions.

PFF/YM finances and budget-related matters

The following notes were reported briefly:

- Piedmont Friends Fellowship has agreed to provide financial support up to \$900 for PFYM-appointed representatives to wider Quaker organizations
- PFF has also agreed to support clerk training for both PFF and PFYM presiding clerks
- PFF provides support to Friends attending the annual FGC Gathering
- PFF will send an annual contribution (estimated at \$200-250) to Guilford College to support archiving of PFF and PFYM records
- PFYM is considering a 'treasurer' position to serve as liaison to PFF on finance-related matters
- PFF currently has about \$19,000 in its account

It was announced that PFF and PFYM are featured in the August issue of FGC *Vital Friends* online newsletter (<http://www.fgcquaker.org/>).

After the afternoon sessions of the respective representative bodies, the joint meeting came back together briefly to affirm the minutes around decisions made in the morning meeting.

Consideration of Future Joint Meetings of PFF Representative Body and PFYM Interim Meeting

Friends were asked to share thoughts about the value of a joint meeting. Friends commented that some of the business of each body was helped by input from the other body, supporting each in doing their work better. Friends also noted that this meeting helped us see the theory of our partnership working out in real time. Appreciation was noted for the work done in advance in developing the joint meeting agenda. However, each body had more limited time to complete their usual business today. Given the considerations noted, Friends seemed easy with continuing to schedule a joint meeting once a year.

Gratitude

Friends expressed gratitude for our time here together, and especially to Raleigh Friends Meeting for hosting, providing dessert and comfortable space, and even calling us with traffic information for our travel here today. A Friend asked that we hold NCYM-FUM in the Light. We also hold those not with us today, those in the world living joyful lives and those living with difficulty. Our silent worship was closed with a grasping of hands all around.

Julie Stafford, PFYM Recording Clerk