

Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting Organizational Relationships

1/17/15
Draft

Preamble

A strong tradition of the conduct of Quaker annual meetings is that the business sessions be integrated with formal worship and be held in the context of a community gathering experience. Such an experience provides attenders and their families the the opportunity to participate in organized learning or uplifting experiences and social events which foster the strengthening of the religious community. In these ways, Piedmont Friends Fellowship (PFF) has been operating like a yearly meeting for 47 years.

A fundamental assumption operant in the decision to proceed forward with the formation of the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM) is that Piedmont Friends Fellowship will continue to organize its two annual conferences, each with formal worship and an uplifting social component, so that the smaller set of PFF meetings opting to participate in the PFYM would not have to duplicate these efforts independently.

The plan is that member meetings of PFYM would only be adding the additional functions of a traditional yearly meeting that, as a group, they specifically chose to add. The conference program, social activities, children's and youth programs, meals, housing, and perhaps other desired items traditional to yearly meetings (such as appointing delegates and representatives to outside organizations or inviting member meetings to participate in acts of Quaker Witness or service) could be well coordinated between the two bodies and, if desired, executed by the larger inclusive body (PFF) or the smaller Yearly Meeting body as agreed.

The overall concept is that Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting while structurally constituted as two independent organizations, will continue to act as one body (PFF) with regard to the many functions typically part of yearly meeting membership, but in this case already traditionally handled by PFF. As independent bodies, this relationship can be changed in the future as needed.

PIEDMONT FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP (PFF)

Note: All current programming, membership and member responsibilities will continue just as they have been accomplished in PFF for forty-five years. These activities are:

a) Program, Services, and Appointments

- (1) Fall one-day retreat for adults
- (2) Spring Annual Meeting and program retreat for adults and children
- (3) A youth program operating throughout the year
- (4) Other ad-hoc or on-going programs of Quaker witness or service as desired
- (5) Financial support for Friends of member meetings who need help in attending Quaker events
- (6) Maintenance of a website and/or social media cooperatively with PFYM
The website shall be titled in both names to helpfully indicate by its structure the relationship between PFF and PFYM as independent but related organizations.
- (7) Appointing representatives to outside organizations as needed (FGC, etc.)
- (8) Other services as agree to by the PFF representatives.

b) Membership - open by application to any Quaker meeting or worship group in the Piedmont area and adjacent areas of North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina.

- c) Responsibilities of member meetings and worship groups
 - (1) Appoint representatives (up to 3) to serve on the PFF Representative Body and to stand for service as officers as necessary
 - (2) Assist in the planning and execution of the retreats and annual meetings, with each meeting contributing as they are able
 - (3) Contribute financially as asked and as able to support ongoing programs and services as determined by the PFF Representative Body

PIEDMONT FRIENDS YEARLY MEETING (PFYM)

- a) Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting will be a separate entity from Piedmont Friends Fellowship, and will be made up of member monthly meetings and organized worship groups
- b) Program, Services, and Appointments
 - (1) Maintenance of a website and/or social media cooperatively with PFF
The website shall be titled in both names to helpfully indicate by its structure the relationship between PFF and PFYM as independent but related organizations.
 - (2) Appointing representatives to outside organizations as needed (FWCC, etc.) and in cooperation with PFF (FGC).
 - (3) Other services as decided by PFYM
 - (4) Other ad-hoc or on-going programs of PFYM Quaker witness or service as agreed to by the PFYM representatives.
- c) Membership
 - (1) Membership in PFYM is open by application to any Quaker meeting or worship group in the Piedmont area of North Carolina and adjoining areas of Virginia and South Carolina.
 - (2) Membership in the yearly meeting will require that the member monthly meeting/worship group also maintain or begin active membership in Piedmont Friends Fellowship. This is required because the programming function that benefits both entities will be carried out by Piedmont Friends Fellowship (see below), avoiding duplication of effort. Therefore, each monthly meeting or worship group that becomes a member of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting will also have an active membership in PFF.
- d) Responsibilities of member meetings and worship group
 - (1) Appoint representatives (up to 3) to serve on the PFYM Representative Body and to stand for service as officers and PFYM representatives to other bodies as necessary.
Meetings/worship groups may choose to appoint the same people to serve as representatives to both PFF and PFYM.
 - (2) Contribute financially if asked by PFYM, as able and needed to support the ongoing yearly meeting services as determined by the PFYM Representative Body
 - (3) Program Planning. Spring retreat, fall workshops, and year-round youth programming will continue to be provided through Piedmont Friends Fellowship. PFYM member meetings acting in their capacity as PFF members, are expected, as in the past, to continue to participate in the planning and conduct of these programs.

RELATIONSHIP TO FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- a) FGC is willing to accept any arrangement for representation that PFF and PFYM reasonably propose. Beginning in 2015 and for as long as mutually agreeable, the nominating

committees for PFF and PFYM will coordinate representation from the membership such that both organizations are appropriately represented at FCG.

- b) FGC asks that its member yearly meetings, fellowships and monthly meetings make a good faith effort to provide financial support to FGC as they are able. FGC also asks to be provided with the individual names and addresses of Friends who are members and attenders of member meetings so that FGC can directly inform individual Friends and promote its various services and opportunities. FGC generally makes an annual appeal for support by mail to all members by mail and will send emails out (perhaps averaging one per month) to those who choose to receive them. PFF (including member meetings who are also members of PFYM) will make good faith efforts to provide such information.
- c) Other Quaker organizations, such as Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) and Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) name only yearly meetings as their members. Consequently, Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting will have the opportunity to name representatives to these bodies.