

## **PFF & PFYM ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIP**

(Rev 2/28/15 per PFYM Representatives)

### **PREAMBLE**

A strong tradition of Quaker annual meetings is that the business sessions be integrated with formal worship and be held in the context of a community gathering. Such a gathering provides the opportunity to participate in uplifting experiences which strengthen the religious community. In these ways, Piedmont Friends Fellowship (PFF) has been operating like a yearly meeting for more than 45 years.

A fundamental assumption in the formation of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM) is that Piedmont Friends Fellowship will continue to organize its two annual retreats, each with formal worship and an uplifting social component, and that PFF meetings opting to participate in PFYM would not duplicate these efforts. PFYM meetings would only add specifically chosen yearly meeting functions. The retreat program, social activities, children's and youth programs, meals, housing, and perhaps other desired items traditional to yearly meetings could be coordinated between the two bodies and executed by either or both.

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

### **PIEDMONT FRIENDS FELLOWSHIP (PFF)**

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 (e.g. FGC)
8. Other services as agreed to by the PFF representatives.

## b) Membership & Responsibilities

1. Membership in PFF is open by application to any Quaker meeting or worship group in the Piedmont area and adjacent areas of North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina.
2. Appoint representatives (up to 3) to serve on the PFF Representative Body and to stand for service as officers as necessary
3. Assist in the planning and execution of the retreats and annual meetings, with each meeting contributing as they are able
4. 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 who are members of PFF.

## 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 discerned (e.g. FWCC) and in cooperation with PFF for FGC representatives.
3. Other services or on-going programs as decided by PFYM.

## c) Membership & Responsibilities

1. Membership in PFYM is open by application to any PFF monthly meeting or worship group in the Piedmont area of North Carolina and adjoining areas of Virginia and South Carolina.
2. Appoint representatives (up to 3) to the PFYM Interim Meeting 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.
3. Contribute financially if asked by PFYM, as able and needed to support the ongoing yearly meeting services.
4. 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 and will send emails out (perhaps averaging one per month) to those who choose to receive them. PFF meetings will make good faith efforts to provide such information after satisfying themselves as to any security, privacy, or other concerns.
  
- 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.