

PRESIDING CLERK'S ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

PFYM VISION STATEMENT: As a Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, we seek to foster a loving community of affiliated monthly meetings and worship groups by increasing and strengthening connections among members, attenders, and seekers and with other Friends' organizations. Our primary goals are to nurture monthly meetings and worship groups by supporting spiritual growth and to witness to our collective truth in the wider world.

In this first year of living into PFYM's vision we have focused on organizational grounding, relationship building, and extending love and witness to the wider world of Friends and others.

Interim Meeting (IM), the PFYM representative body, met four times for worship and fellowship with attention to matters referred by yearly meeting and to leadings that arose within the body. These matters included: (1) approving and distributing the 2015 PFYM Epistle to 'Friends Everywhere'; (2) seasoning committee and working group reports and preparing recommendations for annual sessions (posted on the PFF/YM webpage and available at annual sessions); (3) naming members for the initial Nominating Committee; (4) preparing messages of concern and care to Friends and others during their times of crisis and pain, including Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Friends in Paris, and Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston; and (5) preparing travel minutes for the presiding clerk during her visits with Friends in Paris, Nairobi (Kenya) and Johannesburg (South Africa).

Interim Meeting also welcomed interested visitors from Hillsborough Worship Group (under care of Durham Friends), Abingdon (VA) Friends (members of Baltimore Yearly Meeting), and Friends of PFYM affiliated meetings and worship groups. IM encourages the ongoing practice of visitation within the yearly meeting and beyond.

PFYM was 'introduced' to the larger world of Friends during "roll call" at FGC Annual Gathering held at Western Carolina University and at Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) annual sessions. As the FGC visitor and PFYM clerk I thanked PYM, founded in 1681, for its faithfulness that will continue to provide light and guidance for PFYM, the youngest yearly meeting in North America and perhaps the world. Conversations with Guilford College about serving as a repository for PFYM records and communications with Quaker organizations regarding affiliation provided additional opportunities to speak about PFYM

As described in the PFF/YM relationship document we have collaborated and communicated with PFF on: (1) planning and setting the schedule for the annual retreat/sessions; (2) naming a representative to FGC Central Committee; (3) exploring combined efforts to carry forward a framework/program on social witness; (4) PFF financial support for incidental PFYM expenses; and (5) managing and enriching the PFF/YM website. Of note, the new PFYM email address for incoming mail: pfym2016@gmail.com

Out of worship at this year's annual sessions we will hear responses to the query: "*What has been most on the hearts of our meeting this year?*" I invite us to consider and share in what other ways the yearly meeting might carry forward our collective goal of "providing spiritual nurture" as we continue to grow into being a "loving community of affiliated monthly meetings and worship groups".

With gratitude for each who has been called into service for the yearly meeting and the opportunity to serve as your presiding clerk.

Marian Beane clerk