

REPORT ON PFF YEARLY MEETING FORMATION COMMITTEE

Prepared for the PFF Representative Body meeting on the 15th of sixth month, 2013

The Formation Committee has met on two occasions- at the annual spring retreat and again on May 19th at Raleigh Friends. Meetings appointing Friends to the Formation Committee include Charlotte, Raleigh, Salem Creek, Upstate Friends Worship Group, New Garden, Durham, Davidson and Spring. All representatives regardless of their appointment are fully participating in our deliberations and our sense of community is growing as we get to know each other through worship and listening carefully to each other and to Spirit.

At the May meeting we named *core elements for the yearly meeting vision* and explored our collective understanding of each element. They include the importance of being inclusive with a spirit of openness and transparency, good Quaker practices in worship, business and use of queries, building loving community within the meeting and in our outreach, focus on spirit and being spirit-led, attention to yearly meeting structure and relationship & support for monthly meetings & relationship to the larger Quaker community including PFF, What practices and expressions will be relevant as a 21st Century Yearly Meeting? In these considerations we have found a continuity of thought with Friends who had previously gathered to consider the yearly meeting and for that we are grateful.

Going forward we expect to craft a vision statement to be tested and seasoned with our monthly meetings/worship groups and then move into considerations around structure and function of the yearly meeting, guidelines for faith & practice, relationship to member monthly meetings, to Piedmont Friends Fellowship and the larger Quaker community. We are being encouraged to learn from the experiences of other yearly meetings with similar beginnings and desired structure including Lake Erie Yearly Meeting and Intermountain Yearly meeting

We carry a concern for having a right relationship with other yearly meetings and NC Yearly Meeting Conservative in particular. We expect to find opportunity for open dialogue as way opens and it seems rightly ordered.

The Formation Committee expects to continue its practice of meeting every other month at one of the meetings engaged in the yearly meeting formation work. We see this as opportunity to know each other better through worship and also invite others into the conversation around yearly meeting formation. The next meetings are scheduled for the Sundays of July 14th and September 29 with meeting locations still to be determined.

Marian Beane, clerk

PFF Yearly Meeting Formation Committee