

## **Piedmont Friends Fellowship**

### **Report from Ad Hoc Committee on Yearly Meeting Concerns June 17, 2012**

In early January the clerks of all PFF meetings and worship groups were sent a draft proposal on PFF as a yearly meeting and association along with several background documents. The mailing was sent electronically and in hard-copy form. Meetings were asked to respond to the queries that were included in the message by the end of May. The queries included:

- Does this proposal speak to the condition/interest of your meeting/worship group:
- Is this a PFF service that would help strengthen and deepen the spirit & life of your meeting?
- Is your meeting interested in participating in the development of a yearly meeting should we be led to proceed in this way?

During the interim the following occurred:

- At their request John Hunter met with Chapel Hill and Fayetteville Friends to clarify the proposal
- An interest group met during the PFF annual meeting in March
- The proposal and related documents were posted on the PFF website to allow for greater availability of the materials
- In early May all meetings and worship groups were sent a reminder about their response to the queries and informing them that the documents had been posted on the PFF website
- Meetings and worship groups prepared reports and responses to the queries and provided helpful reflections and counsel.

#### What we gleaned from the reports

- PFF continues to be valued as a fellowship for its simplicity of form, openness to a diversity of Friends, and a desire to preserve that welcoming space
- Several meetings feel that PFF as a fellowship is sufficient for their needs both in form and program
- Two larger meetings (Raleigh & Charlotte). one worship group (Upstate), indicate that the proposal speaks to their condition and are prepared to participate in the development of a yearly meeting. One smaller meeting (Rockingham) is interested but with some reservation due to available human resources.

- One meeting (Salem) is interested in further exploration of yearly meeting affiliation in general.
- All meetings indicated their support for PFF to explore forming a yearly meeting for those meetings that are interested and see benefit
- Concern that formation of a yearly meeting help unite rather further divide Friends in the region in order that we all be strengthened in our love for each other and our witness in the larger world.
- Appreciation by meetings for the opportunity to engage in this discernment as it helped in clarifying current and desired relationships to PFF and Friends in the region.

Given what we have heard from member meetings and worship group the ad hoc committee makes the following recommendations:

1. That the PFF representatives approve “moving forward to accomplish those tasks which would lead to the formation of a PFF related yearly meeting “
2. In order to move forward in the good order of Friends, the Ad Hoc Committee for Yearly Meeting Concerns be asked by the Representatives, over the summer or early fall months of 2012, to facilitate some “get acquainted”, educational, and threshing sessions with the meetings and worship groups who have indicated that they are interested in joining a PFF - related Yearly Meeting as a yearly meeting member (and inviting other interested Friends as well.) The purpose of these sessions is to broaden the understanding amongst as many potentially affected Friends as possible of what may be reasonable expectations for the establishment of a Yearly Meeting for the meetings involved in accordance with the proposal.
3. That a Yearly Meeting Formation committee be established by the fall of 2012. This committee will have a charge to (1) Discern a comprehensive plan for the formation of a PFF-related Yearly Meeting that will be presented for informational, discussion, and revision purposes to the PFF representatives, and (2) prepare to execute that plan such that final approval and establishment of a PFF-related Yearly Meeting could reasonably be accomplished on or before a target date of March of 2014; (3) Identify and recommend the relationship between the yearly meeting and PFF.
4. The PFF representative continue to serve as the support and nourishing body for the yearly meeting formation work and provide guidance and encouragement as indicated above.
5. To compose the Formation committee, the Ad Hoc Committee for Yearly Meeting Concerns will gather and submit names to the PFF Representatives for the Formation Committee as follows:
  - each of the PFF Meetings and worship groups who has indicated that they are interested in joining a PFF Yearly Meeting as a member appoint up to three Friends to serve on the committee.
  - each of the remaining PFF meetings or worship groups may appoint one representative to the Formation committee if they so choose.

- invite any other interested meetings to send observers to the Committee as they may wish
- The ad hoc committee will recommend one member of the formation committee to serve as clerk.

6. With the submission of the names for the Formation Committee to the PFF Representatives, the Ad Hoc Committee for Yearly Meeting Concerns be laid down.

Report Submitted to the PFF Representatives on 6/17/2012.

Ad Hoc Committee on Yearly Meeting Concerns

Lyle Adley-Warrick, Raleigh Meeting  
Marian Beane, Charlotte Meeting  
Robert Cooper, Fayetteville Meeting  
John Hunter, Durham Meeting  
Patricia Sebens, New Garden Meeting

\*PFF Meetings and worship groups that provided reports

- Chapel Hill
- Charlotte
- Durham
- Davidson
- Durham
- Fayetteville
- New Garden (still in discernment on their report)
- Raleigh
- Rockingham
- Salem
- Upstate Worship Group
- Wilkes