

Piedmont Friends Fellowship

**Representative Body Meeting
January 22, 2017, 1:00**

Salem Creek Friends Meeting

Present:

Jeff Brown (clerk)	Chapel Hill
Dylan Buffum	Durham
John Hunter	Durham
Karen McKinnon	Hillsborough/Durham
Judy Haughee-Bartlett	New Garden
John Cardarelli	Salem Creek
Melissa Myer	Wilkes County
Ted Edgerton	Wilkes County

The meeting began with a period of silent worship, followed by introductions.

Review of Minutes

Friends present found that no changes were necessary to the Minutes for the Representative Body meeting on November 5, 2016 as distributed. Friends approved the minutes from the November 5th meeting.

Reports

Communications

The website is up to date and Laura Buffum has updated the PFF directory of PFF representatives.

Nominating Committee

John Cardarelli has been nominated for the position of Recording Clerk, and Friends approved this nomination. John will serve for several years.

Treasurer's Report:

Dylan Buffum reported on several deposits and a withdrawal to Quaker House. Dylan raised the issue of whether PFF might use some of its deposits of approximately \$19,000 for investment through Friends Fiduciary. Some considerations are the past need to pay for a retreat center, and the future needs of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting for its expenses as well as travel to other yearly meetings. PFF Reps agreed to discuss this in future meetings, including PFYM, and Dylan will contact the people at

New Garden Meeting who use Friends Fiduciary. There was agreement that PFF wants to maintain stability in its funds. There is also a commitment to develop a dedicated youth program in PFF/PFYM with a paid position, which will use some of these funds.

Working Group for Expectations and Financial Support for PFF Representatives:

Dylan has written a rough draft based on Durham Friends experience, and sent it out to several PFF representatives. Dylan will send his draft to all PFF representatives for consideration. Representatives are urged to review and post comments on this draft document on Google docs.

Discussion / Decision

Clearness for Hillsborough Friends and PFF/PFYM (Report attached to these minutes)

The Clerk, Jeff Brown, summarized the minutes of a Clearness Committee which met in worship and a Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business at Hillsborough on Sunday, January 15, 2017, with the Hillsborough Worship Group, who have been under the care of Durham Friends Meeting for the past five years. The PFF/PFYM Clearness Committee and Hillsborough Friends were in unity and enthusiastically recommended the formation of a new monthly meeting and affiliation with both PFF and PFYM. The release of Hillsborough Friends from under the care of Durham Friends Meeting will be considered at the next Durham Friends Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. The inclusion of Hillsborough Friends in PFYM will be considered at the upcoming Yearly Meeting in March. PFF Representative Body today approved the membership of Hillsborough Worship Group in Piedmont Friends Fellowship.

Program Planning for PFF Annual Meeting

Registration will be coordinated by Salem Creek, registration forms and housing (at Super 8) by Chapel Hill, Carolina Friends School facility and home hospitality by Durham, meals by Charlotte and Hillsborough, elementary school program by New Garden and Raleigh, middle school program by Chapel Hill, high school program by Durham, preschool and infant care will be hired out, and publicity by Durham and Fancy Gap. Dylan Buffum agreed to send out a special email to past years' participants. Ted Edgerton and Jeff Brown will update last year's flyer.

Friends reviewed the proposed schedule for the retreat, and made suggestions that might move lunch to noon. A family-friendly movement activity organized by Durham Friends Earthcare Witness for Saturday evening was approved.

PFF Reps approved an expense of \$100 to some Carolina Friends School students to move tables and chairs across campus for the retreat. Friends also approved paying two adults to stay overnight with the teens, if needed.

Friends General Conference Update

This year's Gathering in early July will be at Niagara Falls, NY, and looks to be an outstanding event. Some FGC programs have been dropped and others trimmed due to fewer donations. Some new programs such as Quaker Cloud, Spiritual Deepening, and White Privilege workshops are ongoing. Emphasis will be placed on FGC supporting yearly meetings. There is always a balancing act among volunteers offering their time, and FGC budget and expenses. The Gathering will continue to be FGC's primary strength.

Next PFF Meeting

The next two PFF Representative Body meetings will be at the retreat in March and in Wilkes County on Sunday, June 4, 2017. September's meeting day and place will be determined later.

Announcements

PFF minutes its appreciation to Salem Creek Friends for a hosting PFF Representatives for Meeting for Worship, a delicious lunch and today's meeting.

Closing Worship

The meeting closed with silent worship.

John Cardarelli
Temporary Recording Clerk

Attachments

Piedmont Friends Fellowship
 Treasurer’s Report
 20 January 2017

	Balance 11/5/16	Balance 1/20/16	Difference
PNC Checking	\$8,012.41	\$7,767.41	-\$245.00
Self-Help Credit Union	\$11,312.35	\$11,335.48	\$23.13
TOTAL	\$19,324.76	\$19,102.89	-\$221.87

Deposits 11/5/16 to 1/20/17:

Individual contributions to offset
 costs of November retreat \$163.00
 \$508.00
 Fancy Gap Friends \$100.00

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TOTAL : **\$263.00**
 \$508.00

Withdrawals 11/5/16 to 1/20/17:

Contribution to
 Quaker House

Deposits pending:

Raleigh Friend Meeting \$210.00

We received a “Thank You” note from Guilford College Archives for the \$200.00 contribution.

Questions to consider:

Should we consider investing our surplus funds with Friends Fiduciary?

Should we use or donate our surplus funds?

Dylan J.C. Buffum
 Co-Treasurer

Report from Clearness Committee on Hillsborough Friends Worship Group Forming a Monthly Meeting and Affiliating with Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Yearly Meeting

On January 15, 2017, Friends from Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Yearly Meeting formed a clearness committee and visited Hillsborough Friends Worship Group. After joining Hillsborough Friends in a Meeting for Worship in its meeting space in Hillsborough, Friends enjoyed an outstanding potluck lunch and fellowship in the home of Sharon and Sam Weir. Following lunch, the five-member clearness committee joined twelve Hillsborough Friends in a Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. The sole agenda item was seeking clearness on Hillsborough Friends forming a Monthly Meeting and affiliating with Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Yearly Meeting (PFF/YM).

Jeff Brown, clerk of PFF, convened the clearness committee. Friends had a rich sharing about the founding and growth of the Hillsborough Friends Worship Group and individual journeys that led them to the Worship Group. A clear sense of community and special attention to the history of Quakers in Hillsborough were echoed by Friends during the sharing.

Five years ago, Paul Klever and Sally Freeman of Hillsborough received a leading to form a worship group under the care of Durham Friends Meeting, and began holding Meetings for Worship once a month in their home. Sensing a need for regular worship in a downtown Hillsborough location, in September 2013 the group began meeting weekly on Sundays at 11:00 AM at a centrally located yoga studio, 121 Margaret Street, next to the Orange County Public Library. The Worship Group currently enjoys regular Meetings for Worship in the same space which is now a photography studio and gallery, owned by Mary Knox, an attender of the worship group. The group holds a monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on the third First Day in combination with a potluck lunch.

Attendance at Meetings for Worship has grown to an average of a dozen Friends on a given First Day. Experienced Friends as well as newcomers have formed the core of the Hillsborough Friends Worship Group. Many members have had extensive contact with Carolina Friends School over the years. The worship group offers a community that is smaller than Durham Friends Meeting, and its friendliness and warmth are much appreciated by current members. The unprogrammed worship at Hillsborough Friends Meeting and the experience of a loving, supporting community are cherished by all members. The spirit of this group, and its connections to the community of Hillsborough are highly valued. There is also an intention toward inclusiveness and a synergy of diversity of religious backgrounds within this worship group.

There is a wish to have more young Friends attending and to develop a First Day School program. Several attenders with children have come to Meeting for Worship in Hillsborough. There is a faith-based intention to grow in this direction and take advantage of connections to Carolina Friends School.

Primary concerns and strengths of Hillsborough Friends are to continue the evolution of its community and connect with and be inspired by the rich Quaker history in Hillsborough. There is much interest in the Friends Burial Grounds, adjacent to the meeting and school. While the buildings are long gone, the burial grounds remain. The Quaker meeting, Eno Friends Meeting,

was laid down in 1847. Friends are considering adopting “Eno” in its name to honor the past and acknowledge the value of the Eno River that runs through Hillsborough.

This history also sparked a discussion group around Thomas Kelly’s book, *Testament of Devotion*. Also, a public lecture of Quaker migrations to this area of the Piedmont was sponsored by this Hillsborough worship group. Friends from Chapel Hill and Durham have attended these events over the past few years, and have been a source of support. Further discussion groups have centered on Quaker women. The Hillsborough worship group also supports a local initiative to have healthy snacks in the C.W. Stanford Middle School and had outreach to other community concerns.

Regular meetings for worship with attention to business have been ongoing monthly for a few years. Under the care of Durham Monthly Meeting of Friends, the Hillsborough worship group transitioned from its finances being handled by Durham Meeting to opening a checking account and receiving a tax identification number in September, 2015. The Worship Group has an annual budget, with modest income and expenses to date, including rent and philanthropy supported by contributions.

The group has had discernment over the various expectations that come with being an unprogrammed Friends Monthly Meeting, which include sending representatives to larger bodies and community groups. Friends in Hillsborough are comfortable with their outreach and willingness to do the work of a monthly meeting and yearly meeting. There is a level of deep commitment among members to attend monthly Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business. There has been a steady increase in both attendance and interest in growing as a Meeting. There are plenty of people with many years of experience among Friends to have created this very warm and loving community in Hillsborough.

Friends have responded to the experience of their members who have had extensive contact with Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, as well as Friends General Conference. PFF/PFYM emerged as the logical choice as one of the outcomes of discernment between Hillsborough Worship Group and Durham Friends Meeting over the past few years. Hillsborough worship group has been acting as a monthly meeting for many months. This group has felt very comfortable aligning its “bundle of concerns” (history, peace and justice, and others) with FGC, PFF/PFYM, and FCNL.

The PFF clerk read the core elements of the Vision Statement of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting in the face of meeting, followed by a period of silent worship.

There was further discussion to clarify the Quaker process in both becoming a Monthly Meeting in the Society of Friends, and applying for membership in the Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting. Release of the Worship Group from the care of Durham Friends Meeting is a step in becoming a Monthly Meeting.

After discernment of the next steps, the Hillsborough Friends Worship Group approved the following Minutes.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
First Month, Fifteenth Day, 2017

Hillsborough Friends Present:

Sally and Larry Barker, Will Endres, Sally Freeman, Sarah Jones, Paul Klever, Mary Knox, Karen McKinnon, Sue Tideman, Nancy Walker, Sam and Sharon Weir

Representatives of Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Yearly Meeting comprising a Clearness Committee:

Jeffrey Brown, Chapel Hill Friends; John Cardarelli, Salem Creek Friends; Alice Carlton, Chapel Hill Friends; Bob and Carol Passmore, Durham Friends Meeting

Jeff Brown invited Friends to open the meeting in silent worship, after which, he posed a series of queries regarding the history and discernment of Hillsborough Friends in their development as a spiritual community and Quaker presence.

Friends approved the following Minute:

Hillsborough Friends Worship Group requests of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting to be recognized as a monthly meeting and to consider membership affiliation with PFYM/PFF.

After consideration of the process for approaching Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting as an independent Friends meeting, Friends approved this Minute:

Hillsborough Friends Worship Group requests of Durham Friends Meeting to be released from its care as a worship group, in acknowledgment of Hillsborough Friends discernment process for monthly meeting status and yearly meeting affiliation.

Friends were in deep unity in approving the following Minute:

Hillsborough Friends Worship Group expresses sincere appreciation for the care and support from Durham Friends Meeting in the nurturing and guidance of Friends in Hillsborough.

Recording Clerks

Sam and Sharon Weir

As next steps, Hillsborough Friends will make a request to Durham Friends Meeting. The clearness committee will report to the Piedmont Friends Fellowship Representative Body on January 22, 2017 and recommend approval of membership of Hillsborough Friends in PFF. The clearness committee will report to the Interim Body of the Yearly Meeting in February and recommend approval of membership in the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting. If those bodies approve, the recommendations will be presented at the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting on March 11, 2017.

In a closing worship, Friends expressed joy and gratitude for the spirit-led discernment and unity of Friends.

Members of the clearness committee: Jeff Brown and Alice Carlton (Chapel Hill Friends Meeting), Carol Passmore and Bob Passmore (Durham Friends Meeting), John Cardarelli (Salem Creek Friends), and Marian Beane (Charlotte Friends, away on travel on the day of the meeting).

Report: First Month, Twenty-second Day, 2017.