

Piedmont Friends Fellowship

**Representative Body Meeting
March 12, 2017, 1:00**

Carolina Friends School

Present:

Jeff Brown (clerk)	Chapel Hill
Dylan Buffum	Durham
John Hunter	Durham
Linda Hunter	Durham
Karen McKinnon	Eno
Virginia Driscoll	New Garden
Bob Mers	New Garden
Joyce Mers	New Garden
John Cardarelli	Salem Creek
Gary Hornsby	Salem Creek
Melissa Meyer	Wilkes County
Ted Edgerton	Wilkes County
Vernie Davis	Raleigh
Martin Doherty	Charlotte
Marian Beane	Charlotte

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 January 22, 2017.

Reports

Communications

The website is up to date and Laura Buffum has kept everything current with the Directory with the exception of updates needed for new representatives from Abingdon and Eno Friends of Hillsborough Meetings.

Nominating Committee

For information about nominating committee, refer to the Nominating Committee's report to the PFF's annual meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report:

No fiscal activity this quarter. Dylan Buffum will send out the accounting of the annual retreat weekend's income and expenses by email in the near future.

Working Group for Expectations and Financial Support for PFF Representatives:

Vernie Davis, Melissa Meyer, Dick Connell, and Dylan Buffum have formed the new Working Group as a joint PFF/YM committee. This group will clarify the kind of financial support and assistance to be expected for travel reimbursements. Dylan will send out the minutes from our PFF representatives meeting last July to help inform people about the guidelines and refresh the status of the discussion among members of the new Working Group.

Discussion / Decision

Upcoming Meetings – Days and Locations

The next Representative Body meeting will take place on Sunday, June 4, 2017, in Wilkes County Agricultural Center, beginning at 11:00 AM with Meeting for Worship. Lunch will be provided before the representatives meet at 1:00 PM.

Saturday, August 19th, 2017, is the preferred date for a joint PFF and PFYM Interim meeting for worship with a concern for business, tentatively set for New Garden Friends Meeting. The 26th of August is also a possibility. To be confirmed with New Garden Friends.

PFF representatives will also meet on Sunday, November 19th at Eno Friends Meeting in Hillsborough with Meeting for Worship beginning at 11 AM, and business following lunch.

Friends discussed a fall retreat, beginning with a report from Gary Hornsby, Salem Creek Friends Meeting. He described Seven Springs Retreat NC in Davie County, a former Girl Scout camp. The site offers 50 wooded acres with a lake, shelters and main lodge. A number of church groups have used the facility for weekend or day retreats. Three rugged campsites are available on the property. It is set up as a Limited Liability Corporation with liability coverage. There is obvious potential for hosting a PFF/YM youth retreat or hosting the PFF fall retreat.

Friends discussed options and concluded that Friday through Sunday, September 22nd-24th would be the best available weekend for the fall retreat. Friends would have the option of coming early on Friday evening, as well as staying over Saturday night either at Seven Springs or in a nearby motel. An early afternoon program on Saturday would be planned around a theme. John Hunter has volunteered to coordinate lunch, and Salem Creek Friends will volunteer to coordinate dinner on Saturday. Friends agreed to

plan the fall retreat at Seven Springs for September 22-24.

Annual Retreat

PFF representatives agreed to reimburse Karen McKinnon \$100 for the costs associated with Carolina Friends School hosting our weekend retreat as well as a \$200 gift to the school. PFF reps also agreed to donate \$200 to Quaker Earthcare Witness on behalf of Mary Jo Klingel for her adult program on environmental sustainability yesterday.

Regarding the PFF/YM Annual Retreat concluded this morning, several Friends expressed the hope that more open and relaxed fellowship time would be included in future retreats. Fun, dancing and/or music on Saturday evening is also desirable.

The motel had issues with hot showers and other problems, and a new facility might be chosen in future years.

Carolina Friends School has very good facilities for meetings and meals. The new Performing Arts building will be available next spring for our large group gatherings. A review of when to conduct PFYM business meetings will be addressed in the future. Improved road signs and directions to Carolina Friends School would be helpful next year.

Appreciation for being environmentally responsible led to the option of bringing one's own dishes. Kitchen dish cleaning may need to be more sanitary.

The youth were very engaged this year on Saturday evening in an intergenerational activity. At future retreats, we are hopeful to make a better effort to invite and engage certain monthly meetings who were not represented this year, and have a broader fellowship. David O'Mahony is appreciated for his work with youth. Karen McKinnon did an excellent job coordinating our plans with Carolina Friends School.

John Hunter, Karen McKinnon, and Jeff Brown will investigate potential conflicts with school-related testing/activities and the timing of the annual retreat, before June.

Announcements

Friends are encouraged to attend the FGC Gathering this July in Niagara Falls, NY. It is possible for Friends to obtain financial support from local meetings as well as Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Yearly Meeting (maximum \$150 for individuals and \$200 for a family) and from FGC through work grants and a specified amount for first-time attenders. Friends are strongly encouraged to ask their monthly meeting for financial support, and a written request for PFF/YM monetary support should come from the Clerk of those monthly meetings, submitted to Dylan Buffum, our Treasurer. This entire process is explained in detail on our PFF/YM website.

Friends are encouraged to begin work on a budgeting process for PFF/YM this year.

Other Business

Alternatives to Violence Project will be hosting an international meeting in Nepal this summer. John Shuford and Deborah Bromiley from Raleigh Friends Meeting are seeking grant support to attend this meeting. The Clerk described an opportunity for PFF to provide financial assistance. Raleigh has already committed \$500 to their travel. PFF/YM representatives recognize their deep involvement in this work and prison ministry, their strong leading, and Raleigh meeting's discernment in this matter. PFF approved a matching grant of \$500 to John and Deborah for their upcoming Alternatives to Violence endeavor, and PFF is very interested in learning from their experience, and intend to invite John and Deborah to share their work with us in an upcoming retreat.

On another topic, a Friend encouraged us to hold a threshing session surrounding the issues of white and other privilege and how to support the work of the NAACP in its Moral Monday movement.

Closing Worship

The meeting closed with silent worship.

John Cardarelli
Recording Clerk
