

Piedmont Friends Fellowship

**Annual Business Meeting
March 13, 2016 – 9:00**

Carolina Friends School, Durham, NC

Attending

John Hunter
Linda Hunter
Dylan Buffum
Laura Lipps Buffum
Karen Stewart
John Hull
Linda Hull
Marian Beane
Martin Doherty
Virginia Driscoll
Robert Mers
Joyce Mers
Kathleen Rice
Debbie Parvin
Tony Lowe
Mike Johnson
Karen McKinnon
Jeff Brown
Craig Daniel
Rudy Zalesak
Lyle Adley-Warrick
Jan Schmidt
John Schmidt
Gary Hornsby
Christin Barnhardt
Christina Connell
Brent Bill
Andrei Israel

Meeting

Durham
Durham
Durham
Durham
Durham
Durham
Durham
Charlotte
Charlotte
New Garden
New Garden
New Garden
New Garden
Fancy Gap
Fancy Gap
Upstate
Hillsborough Worship Group/Durham
Chapel Hill
Raleigh
Raleigh
Raleigh
Raleigh
Raleigh
Salem Creek
Salem Creek
Salem Creek
West Newton / FGC
Washington / William Penn House

The meeting opened after a period of silent worship.

John Hunter, Clerk of PFF, welcomed attenders and visitors.

Clerk's Report

John Hunter, Clerk, highlighted PFF's growing relationship with the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting, the fall retreat in Winston-Salem on immigration stories, and the successful retreat this weekend at Carolina Friends School. PFF representation on the FGC Central Committee continues to be strong. He emphasized the history of PFF building bridges and being inclusive.

The Clerk's Report is attached and will be posted on the website.

FGC

The Clerk reminded Friends that registration for the FGC Gathering will open in April. He urged Friends to plan for it and attend.

American Friends Service Committee Report

John Hunter reported on behalf of Lori Fernald Khamala and Toni Etheridge on current activities of AFSC including the NC Immigrant Rights programs. Programs include a tuition equality campaign and a community training program for immigrants. Other efforts include building cooperation among African American and Latino communities. The report is attached.

Fayetteville Quaker House Report

Lyle Adley-Warwick, Clerk of Quaker House Board, reported on behalf of Lynn Newsome on the many activities of Quaker House during the last year. Quaker House continues its free counseling services and support for military personnel and families. Friends expressed appreciation for the fine work of Lynn and Steve Newsome. Clerk reminded Friends that PFF meetings founded Quaker House in 1969 and continue to support its vital activities. A detailed report is attached.

Mike Johnson recommended the Moral Injury Program, presented to Update Friends this year. Today, Lynn and Steve Newsome are giving a Moral Injury Present 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg.

Friends also recognized that Curt Torel, Quaker House Board Treasurer, gave a presentation to the FGC Gathering on conscientious objection and continues to be a resource for meetings.

Treasurer's Report

Jeff Brown reported on behalf of Bob Cooper. Friends accepted the report (attached).

Report of the Yearly Meeting

Marian Beane reported that the second meeting ("first annual meeting") of the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM) was held yesterday (March 12), including seven member meetings and worship groups as well as PFF Friends. The report is attached and an epistle will be shared with PFF meetings.

Nominating Committee Report

The PFF Nominating Committee presented nominations of Dylan and Laura Buffum as co-Treasurers. Friends approved the nominations. Dylan and Laura Buffum will replace Treasurer Bob Cooper and Assistant Treasurer Tom Kagan after Bob Cooper completes deposits and reimbursements from the annual PFF retreat.

Karen McKinnon and Virginia Driscoll serve on the Nominating Committee. They invite Piedmont Friends to bring forward names of Friends for PFF service, to be discerned by the Nominating Committee. PFF is seeking names for an assisting clerk and a recording clerk.

The Nominating Committee also seeks updates to the PFF Directory and will recommend a

process for maintenance.

Minute of Appreciation for Carolina Friends School

Friends expressed appreciation for Carolina Friends School for the use of the facilities this weekend, and recognized the value of Carolina Friends School in Quaker education. This afternoon the Representative Body will consider a donation with gratitude.

Other Items

Friends observed that the youth program had very low attendance this year. Friends need to bring forward more adult volunteers and coordinate their respective Meeting activities to avoid conflicting events during the PFF annual retreat. The Representative Body will review the retreat programming, including dates.

A Minute of Thanks to John Hunter

PFF Friends thanked John Hunter for service as PFF presiding clerk (2012-2016)

- For encouraging participation of all meetings in strengthening the life of PFF and its representative body
- For providing strong and spirit-centered leadership during time of PFYM's formation and launching;
- For facilitating the launch and management of PFF/YM's website
- For faithfully serving as PFF's voice at FGC's Central and Executive Committees
- For willingly taking on needful tasks as mundane as purchasing paper products for the retreat

PFF is grateful for your clerk leadership for the past four years and for your keeping us in remembrance of our historical roots having participated in the founding of PFF 49 years ago.

Retreat Recognitions

Friends recognized with much gratitude Karen McKinnon for facility coordination, Rudy Zalesak and Andrew Wright and others Friends who organized and ran the children's programming, and Ruth Moeller and her Charlotte team who planned, purchased and prepared the food. Friends also expressed appreciation for David Langham for arranging the fine concert by Peter Blood and Annie Patterson on Saturday evening.

The meeting closed with silent worship.

Jeff Brown,
Recording Clerk

Attachments

ATTACHMENTS
PFF Annual Business Meeting
03/13/2016

Clerk's Report
American Friends Service Committee Report
Quaker House Report
Yearly Meeting Report
Treasurer's Report

Piedmont Friends Fellowship

Clerk's Report on the State of the Fellowship

3/13/2016

In the last year, Piedmont Friends Fellowship has begun the move into the new relationship with the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting. The 6 years of work of the various yearly meeting exploratory, threshing, and formation committees was completed a year ago and has been replaced with regular meetings of the PFYM Interim Meeting for the 7 meetings associated with the new Yearly Meeting. PFF's relationship to PFYM has changed from a midwife to a co-equal sharing various responsibilities with the seven PFYM meetings and continuing on in our supportive role with the ten who have chosen to remain solely affiliated with PFF.

PFF presented a very successful fall retreat at the Winston-Salem Meeting in November titled "Immigration and Quakers" presented by Lori Khamala. Lori brought in a panel of three young immigrant women each with different circumstances. Friends present were asked to think of ways that our meetings could help and suggestions were critiqued by Lori and the panel. Friends from 12 PFF meetings left the retreat educated and energized to spur their meetings to more action.

This 2016 Annual Meeting and Retreat has been very successful in most all regards. The attendance continues an upward trend and the addition of the Yearly Meeting has and will add a wonderful new dimension to our weekend. In addition to the PFYM sessions and a thought provoking and engaging program by featured speaker Max Carter, a series of presentations by four different Friends organizations, we also enjoyed an excellent concert by Peter Blood and Annie Patterson. Friends from all of our meetings pitched in to make this weekend a success with special thanks to key local Fiends from Durham and Chapel Hill meetings and Charlotte Meeting who organized the food this year.

In 2016 multiple Friends from PFF continue to be active and provide leadership in the work of Friends General Conference. We continue to be disproportionately represented within the FGC committee structure with our members serve on several key national FGC committees, and even with some long-time PFF Friends stepping down, we have nominated new Friends from PFF/PFYM who are serving well. Our present representatives to the FGC Central Committee are Karen McKinnon, Tony Lowe, and Lori Fernald Khamalla. In addition, John Hunter, Marian Beane, Karen Stewart, and Judy Purvis have been serving in other leadership and committee roles with FGC. We will continue to encourage our member meetings to send their member/attender lists to FGC as we have several times agreed is in right order to do.

There has been no changes this past year with meetings joining or departing from our membership. We remain stable with 17 member meetings. This year, John Hunter will rotate off as Clerk and be replaced by Jeff Brown who will also replace John on the FGC Executive Committee.

PFF meetings continue to show interest and activity in maintaining a strong organization of Friends in the Piedmont region across several branches of Friends continuing our tradition of inclusiveness and working successfully together. With the establishment of an equally inclusive yearly meeting as part of our organization we look forward to continue to meet the needs of Friends in this area.

John Hunter, Clerk

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AFSC NC Report to Piedmont Friends Fellowship and Yearly Meeting, March 11, 2016

Submitted by Lori Fernald Khamala and Toni Etheridge, AFSC staff

Check out our Year-At-A-Glance Report: www.TinyUrl.com/afscNC2015.

NC Peace & Economic Justice Program (NCPEJ), led by Toni Etheridge

The Peace & Economic Justice Program is working on youth leadership development with four groups of high school students; police-community relations in Greensboro; and voter registration. The program is also partnering with AFSC's NC Immigrant Rights Program on our African American – Latin@ Bridge Building & Awareness project (AALBBA). Toni Etheridge is a key part of two local groups working on policing issues: the City-Community Working Group, which includes the mayor, faith leaders, organizers and community members, and she serves as interim Chair of the Police Accountability Community Safety and Healing Initiative. Our new **AFSC Youth Justice Group** meets monthly to talk about social justice advocacy and activism. In the last quarter, we held more than four **African American- Latino Bridge Building & Awareness** workshops with local high school youth, held a Letter to the Editor workshop with youth at Page High School, helped lead two **community-wide forums on local policing** and abuse of power, and led the AFSC contingent in the Greensboro MLK Day Parade and in NC NAACP's annual **HKonJ march on Raleigh** in February. AFSC staff and interns have **registered over 120 people to vote** in the last couple of weeks, focusing primarily on communities frequently ignored, including people dealing with homelessness, naturalized immigrants, young people and other people of color. We also assisted with a **program featuring Michelle Alexander** speaking about police-community relations; this program laid the groundwork for young people to help lead and facilitate discussions in each of Greensboro's five districts. We are preparing for the **Humanize Not Militarize film festival** in a few months and are working with students to create short video submissions for this project designed to begin to change the narrative from one of militarization to one of humanization.

NC Immigrant Rights Program (NCIRP), led by Lori Fernald Khamala

The NCIRP is currently focusing on: a new Community Leaders Learning Program for a small group of emerging immigrant leaders, responding to national reports of immigration raids, supporting efforts to welcome refugees, continuing our tuition equality campaign for undocumented students, working to end immigrant detention, and educating non-immigrants about all of these issues. In addition, we are supporting one individual who will likely face deportation. In the last quarter, NCIRP began the **Community Leaders Learning Program**, a 6-month multi-ethnic immigrant leadership program in

which eight immigrant community leaders and mentors participate in trainings including Know Your Rights, Voting, Lobbying, and learn to become more vocal and visible in their communities. We held a **vigil and Know Your Rights training** in January to **respond to recent immigrant raids** and updated our Know Your Rights booklets. We partnered with the NCPEJ program to conduct workshops for the African American Latino Bridge Building and Alliance project. We helped put together an excellent program on **immigrant detention** in November for the League of Women Voters featuring a new digital story of an individual who was detained (www.Tinyurl.com/storyofJorge), and have organized meetings with members of congress about the immigrant detention quota. We have been involved in efforts to express support for **welcoming refugees**, including being the lead organizer on a **large press conference** in November prior to an annual multicultural Thanksgiving dinner. In December, we led a strategy retreat for **Let's Learn Triad**, the local group working on **tuition equality efforts**. There is a new coordinator for the group- paid AFSC intern, and the group continues in its efforts to prepare young people for options for higher education, as well as a strong focus on the policy side. We worked with young people to meet with one republican state representative who told us he did support tuition equality!! We also led a **Valentines for Tuition Equality campaign** in February targeting a state House leader.

Other

- We currently host eight volunteers and interns, many who are Guilford College students.
- We are coming up on AFSC's Centennial in 2017! We will likely have many activities and different ways to engage to honor AFSC's legacy of peace and justice and continue the work.

AFSC Area Office of the Carolinas
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facebook.com/afscnc

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Quaker House Yearly Meeting Report March 2016

Submitted by Elaine Martin, Southeastern Yearly Meeting Quaker House Representative

“A Place of Peace in a Military City”

On December 4th, 2015, Lynn and Steve Newsom, the Directors of Quaker House, participated in the annual wreath laying for Beryl Mitchell who had been killed by her military spouse. It is just one of the many ways Quaker House not only witnesses to the absurdity and cruelty of war but provides support, counseling and care for those affected.

The Quaker House GI Rights Hotline answers thousands of calls from military, active duty and veteran and military families. The number of calls to the hotline continues to increase. This year the hotline answered an average of 280 calls per month for a total of 3370, up from 2659 last year. The counselors' most rewarding yet most time consuming work is helping service members with their conscientious objector status, guiding and providing moral support as they move through regulations, delays and at times deliberate roadblocks of the command structure. Since November I have been helping support the GI Rights hotline by returning messages, screening calls and prioritizing them for urgency. The two weeks after Christmas proved particularly heartbreaking listening to family members talk about their young sons and daughters suffering emotionally to the point of breakdown and hospitalization. In one case, a mother was told to get her son on a plane back to his command.

Quaker House also continues the important work of providing counseling and support for the victims of

military domestic violence. Started three years ago with a donation from an anonymous donor, the Quaker House counselor sees up to 10 clients a day. In addition to domestic violence, she also sees clients who suffer from the effects of PTSD, sexual assault, and moral injury. The reputation of the program has grown both in the community and on base at Fort Bragg. The service is free and often the last resort for those in need of help. Funding for the program is tenuous and any and all contributions will be appreciated.

Lynn and Steve continue to travel to reach out to new audiences providing education and information on moral injury. To name a few, they gave their presentation for the Medical Grand Rounds at H.H. McGuire VA hospital in Richmond, VA; for the Licensed Professional Counselors Association of North Carolina's annual conference; and for a military chaplain's retreat for the officers in the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade. Quoting Rita Nakashima-Brock, "Moral injury results when soldiers violate their core moral beliefs, and in evaluating their behavior negatively, they feel they no longer live in a reliable, meaningful world and can longer be regarded as decent human beings." Today, on average, 22 veterans a day commit suicide. Lynn and Steve tell stories of numerous people who have come up to them after the presentation to express their gratitude.

Quaker House facilitates Alternatives to Violence Project training and provides Truth in Recruiting literature and information. In addition, Quaker House provides a warm and welcoming place for people in the community to meet. Mindfulness classes and an AA group meet there regularly and musicians perform house concerts frequently.

On November 16, Quaker House organized a forum on "Challenging Islamophobia and Racism co-sponsored by approximately 19 other community organizations. Quaker House continues to witness against torture and drone warfare. Educational forums on many subjects that relate to peace and justice issues are conducted regularly.

Lynn has forged a relationship with Fort Bragg. Through her dedicated work with the military chaplains and mental health care professionals, a closer association has developed which allows Quaker House to provide information and services on base and personnel at Fort Bragg make referrals to Quaker House. In addition, Lynn continues to attend and present at the Bragg Region Behavioral Healthcare Collaborative, Community Blueprint (she is now on their Advisory Committee), the Behavioral Health Professionals Association, the Military Spiritual Wellness Alliance, Greater Fayetteville United and serves on the board of CARE Domestic Violence Center.

More recently, Quaker House has taken up the issue of the poor mental health care provided for the some 700,000 incarcerated service members and veterans. This issue was brought to their attention by the tragic case of a service member in Fayetteville who was sentenced to 10-18 years in prison for an offense that was obviously brought on by his severe PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury. Lynn and Steve are working with his family and lawyer to help him and organized a petition calling for "Adequate and Compassionate Mental Health Care for Service Members and Veterans" that is being circulated nationally. The Military Chaplains Association of North America published the petition on their electronic newsletter. An Op Ed written by Lynn was published in the Raleigh News and Observer and the Fayetteville Observer. In April, they will hold a vigil in front of the Airborne and Special Operations Museum. Many veterans' groups will be invited to participate.

The new website for Quaker House went live last year and continues to add resources and news of the work of Quaker House. Their Facebook page averages 1,500 "hits" a week.

Moving forward, Quaker House foresees the challenge of the future; to take the Quaker House message to a wider audience, tackling the increasing administrative complexities, expanding the fund base and succession planning as Steve and Lynn Newsom will retire in 2017.

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PIEDMONT FRIENDS YEARLY MEETING (PFYM) REPORT TO PFF Annual Meeting

One year ago PFYM was established as a new yearly meeting with six (6) affiliated monthly meetings and one (1) worship group. It was a joyous occasion as we celebrated this mile marker after five (5) years of faithful discernment by the Interim Yearly Meeting Formation Committee, all PFF meetings and with the ongoing spiritual support of PFF representative body.

In this first year of living into a PFYM’s vision we have focused on organizational grounding, relationship building and extending love and witness to the wider world of Friends and others. Friends are invited to read the Clerk’s report (posted on the PFYM webpage) for a summary of this year.

In advance of annual sessions Interim Meeting (representative body) prepared the following recommendations that were considered and accepted:

- PFYM Policy & Procedures Handbook as a working document
- To initially affiliate with three Quaker organizations including AFSC, FCNL & FWCC. In considering Quaker House we agreed that all PFYM meetings are connected with Quaker House through PFF’s affiliation.
- The use of a proposed form for collecting affiliated meeting statistics and receiving ‘state of the meeting’ reports
- To establish relationship with Guilford College Quaker Archives as a repository of PFYM records and commit to work with PFF on determining an appropriate level of financial support for this service to both PFF & PFYM.

In maintaining its relationship with PFF PFYM has collaborated and communicated with PFF on: (1) planning and setting the schedule for this year’s annual retreat/sessions; (2) naming Lori Khamala Fernald (2015-18) as one of PFF/YM’s three representatives 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 with recognition that while PFYM currently does not have a treasurer all PFYM meetings contribute to the PFF budget; (5) initial efforts to help manage and enrich the PFF/YM website through appointment of a clerk for PFYM’s standing committee on Communications. PFYM now has a generic email address that is posted on the PFF/YM website: pfym2016@gmail.com

At annual sessions the working group peace & social witness reported on the aforementioned program on social witness which will now be held by PFYM/PFFF in collaboration with AFSC of the Carolinas office in particular with Lori Fernald.

PFYM is grateful for opportunities to collaborate and be united in spirit with all PFF Friends and others in the Piedmont and beyond

Prepared by Marian Beane, clerk
PFYM
Eleventh day, Third Month, 2016

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The Treasurer’s Report for Piedmont Friends Fellowship for 2015.
PFF Annual Meeting March 13, 2016

We began the year with \$18,401.50.

During the year we took in \$8,874.35 including donations from our members totaling \$4,660, and \$45.35 in Interest income.

Our largest expenditure was \$4,550 given in assistance for people to attend the 2015 FGC Gathering held here in North Carolina.

We made donations to Quaker House and FGC totaling \$600 for two years' worth of donations since we had forgotten to make donations to them in 2014.

We spent \$502.42 more for the Spring Retreat than we took in, and \$119.35 more than we took in for the Fall Retreat.

We spent \$200 in Travel expenses for PFF Representatives to attend FGC Central Committee Meetings.

We spent \$24 on Bank Service Charges and \$31.40 on Copying and Office Supplies.

We ended up the year spending \$1,324.50 more than we brought in, and ended the year with \$17,079.68.

Robert Cooper
PFF Treasurer