

Piedmont Friends Fellowship

**Annual Business Meeting
March 15, 2015 – 9:00**

New Garden Friends Meeting, Greensboro, NC

Attending

Meeting

John Hunter	Durham
Linda Hunter	Durham
Rhonda Lanning	Durham
Micah Barnhill-Wright	Durham
Ben Gavin	Durham
Marian Beane	Charlotte
Cindy Nelson	Charlotte
Jerry Nelson	Charlotte
Martin Doherty	Charlotte
Karen Garraputa	New Garden
Dorothy Mason	New Garden
Robert Mers	New Garden
Joyce Mers	New Garden
Janet Inmon	New Garden
Debbie Parvin	Fancy Gap
Doris Wilson	Upstate
Mike Johnson	Upstate
Virginia Driscoll	New Garden
Karen McKinnon	Hillsborough Worship Group/Durham
Catherine Alguire	Chapel Hill
Jeff Brown	Chapel Hill
Alice Carlton	Chapel Hill
Dave Curtin	Chapel Hill
Bill Jenkins	Chapel Hill
Robert Cooper	Fayetteville
Lynn Newsome	Fayetteville / Quaker House
Steve Newsome	Fayetteville / Quaker House
Kathy Kamphoefner	Raleigh
Paul Pierce	Raleigh
Lyle Adley-Warrick	Raleigh
Susan Adley-Warrick	Raleigh
Kathy Kamphoefner	Raleigh
Paul Pierce	Raleigh
Ted Emigh	Raleigh
Gini Emigh	Raleigh
Gary Hornsby	Salem Creek
John Cardarelli	Salem Creek
Gary Hornsby	Salem Creek
Christina Connell	Salem Creek
Dick Connell	Salem Creek
Joan Tillotson	Friendship
Lori Khamala	Friendship / AFSC
Eric Evans	Central Philadelphia / FGC

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 the formation and first meeting of the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting this year. He described the successful fall retreat led by Christina Repoley on the topic of Prophetic Service and Transformation, and this weekend's annual retreat attended by more than 90 adults and 20 youth. Other highlights of the year included PFF's strong representation and service in the leadership of FGC.

The Clerk recognized Fancy Gap for its vital participation during the last year. He added that PFF is an example of Friends getting along in community and in Spirit.

The Clerk's Report is attached.

Friends General Conference Report

Eric Evans highlighted three new programs at FGC: the New Meetings Project which includes tools for supporting new and already existing meetings; the Grow Our Meetings Workshop which is in a pilot stage and includes tools for in-reach, outreach, and integration of newcomers; and the Spiritual Deepening project which is designed to allow newcomers, individual Friends and Quaker meetings to explore Quaker spiritual practice and find ways to deepen their spiritual lives and their meetings. FGC now offers online tools for growing meetings and sustaining meetings.

American Friends Service Committee Report

Lori Fernald Khamala reported on current activities of AFSC including the NC Peace and Justice and the NC Immigrant Rights programs. Her report is attached.

Fayetteville Quaker House Report

Lynn Newsome reported on the many activities of Quaker House during the last year (report is attached). The Clerk reminded Friends that PFF founded Quaker House in 1969 and continues to support its vital activities.

Youth Epistle

Micah Barnhill-Wright and Ben Gavin presented an epistle on the weekend (attached). Youth explained that they appreciate their own time but also appreciate intergenerational sessions such as those held yesterday by AFSC and Quaker House.

Treasurer's Report

John Hunter explained that annual donations received from PFF member meetings and worship groups are appreciated. There will be a report from the Treasurer in the Representative Body Meeting (attached).

Report of the Yearly Meeting

Marian Beane reported that the first meeting of the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM) was held yesterday (March 14), including seven member meetings and worship groups as well as PFF Friends. The report is attached and an epistle will be shared with PFF.

Nominating Committee Report

The PFF Nominating Committee presented nominations of John Hunter for Presiding Clerk (extended to May 2016), Jeff Brown for Assisting Clerk and Rising Clerk, Robert Cooper for

Treasurer, Tom Kagan for Assistant Treasurer, Micah Barnhill-Wright as PFF Listserv Manager.

Karen McKinnon and Tony Lowe are nominated to represent PFF on Friends General Conference. This leaves one vacancy for PFF representatives to FGC.

Friends approved the nominations. The Nominating Committee report is attached.

Other Reports or Items for Consideration

The Clerk requested PFF meetings to keep emails in the listserv up to date by contacting Micah Barnhill-Wright.

Changes in Clerks, PFF Representatives and contact information need to be sent to Robert Cooper for updates to the PFF Directory.

One suggestion is to create email addresses that are constant for PFF representatives. Jeff Brown will follow up with Catherine Alguire.

Friends voiced appreciation for the work of PFF Representatives.

FGC and PFF have scholarships available to support Friends who need financial assistance to attend the FGC Annual Gathering at Western Carolina University.

The meeting closed with silent worship.

Jeff Brown,
Recording Clerk

Attachments

Clerk's Report
American Friends Service Committee Report
Quaker House Report
Yearly Meeting Formation Committee Report
Treasurer's Report
Youth Epistle from Annual Retreat

Clerk's Report on the State of the Fellowship

Piedmont Friends Fellowship

Clerk's Report on the State of the Fellowship

3/15/2015

In the last year, Piedmont Friends Fellowship has moved forward on several key issues.

The work of the the Yearly Meeting Formation Committee has been completed and the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting is now established and has held its first annual session yesterday. This committee will be laid down. This will mark the end of over 6 years of threshing, consultation, discernment, and formation since the idea of a yearly meeting was brought up at a PFF Representative Body meeting in 2008.

PFF presented a very successful fall retreat at the Durham Meeting in November titled "Prophetic Service as Formation and Transformation" presented by Christina Repoley who is originally from Charlotte Meeting. Christina spoke from her experience as founder and director of Quaker Voluntary Service. The fall retreat was quite well attended and Christina's presentation was very well received. Dutham Meeting was a great venue for this event and PFF participants enjoyed wonderful meal and hospitality put together by Durham Friends.

This 2015 Annual Meeting and Retreat has been very successful in 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. Friends from New Garden Meeting are once again appreciated for their many contributions to making the weekend successful.

Multiple Friends from PFF continue to be extremely active and provide leadership in the work of Friends General Conference. We are disproportionately represented within the FGC committee structure with our members serve on several key national FGC committees.

Fancy Gap Friends Meeting which joined PFF last year has been very active well represented at our meetings. Unfortunately two other small meetings at Laurinburg and Ashe County have ceased to be viable.

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
Piedmont Friends Fellowship

American Friends Service Committee

Report to Piedmont Friends Fellowship

March 15, 2015

Submitted by Toni Etheridge & Lori Fernald Khamala, AFSC staff

Summary

*AFSC's **NC Peace & Economic Justice program (NCPEJ)** has focused on our new SOAR (South Organizing Against Racism) project, organizing local youth and holding a major march and community discussion on police issues on January 15 in Greensboro. We continue to support the NAACP's Moral Monday movement and conduct civic engagement trainings with youth groups of color in Greensboro.

*AFSC's **NC Immigrant Rights Program (NCIRP)** has prioritized tuition equality for NC undocumented students this legislative session, is conducting community education around the new Deferred Action programs through forums and material distribution, is collecting surveys for a report on immigration detention, and continues to work with our immigrant ally groups.

***Together**, our NC programs are preparing a "Human Rights Through Digital Storytelling" camp for Spring Break; are working to develop a community response to the recent killings of Muslim students in Chapel Hill; and are increasing our outreach to local Quaker Meetings to build stronger relationships.

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

The Peace & Economic Justice program this January, launched **SOAR (South Organizing Against Racism)**. The goal is to find common concerns throughout the AFSC South region (from Washington, D.C. to Miami and beyond) and to help equip young people with the tools to organize around their local community concerns. While each state has specific issues, we seek opportunities to link common concerns, like police brutality, among other unjust social conditions. We held a major **day of action on January 15** in Greensboro and across the South. In partnership with **NAACP and Moral Monday Movement**, we advocate passing of Medicaid expansion or to substantially modify it to reflect equitable and moral policy that supports social and economic justice. We took a van to HKonJ in February and led a group of Quakers marching behind the AFSC banner. We just completed **1 of 3 PREZI demonstrations about voter registration** to youth at Elimu Learning Center. Guilford College students are collaborating with us to produce an **AFSC intern-volunteer survey** to capture pre & post skill capacity of interns and volunteers, plus provide data about the impact of their internship with AFSC. I continue to work on civic engagement and leadership development with local youth groups of color. I am also building relationships with local activist groups, such as Black Lives Matter, groups focused on **LGBTQ rights**, and with groups like Alamance Peace Action. I recently **received an award** from the Principled Problem Solving dept. at Guilford College – called the **Higher Education in Prison Program Selfless Contributor Award (HEIPP)** for the ongoing work raising awareness around prison culture, education and their families.

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

Our program was awarded an **AFSC donor-funded Fellowship** for our **Ending Deportation and Detention (ENDD) campaign** work in FY 2015. Adamou Mohamed worked with us through January and Leticia Benitez has just joined us through September 2015 in this position. The Fellow coordinates our **ENDD Taskforce**, which is a grassroots group of immigrant community leaders representing many nationalities working to stop deportation and immigrant detention. With the help of Guilford College students, ENDD is launching a **survey project** to document experiences of detained immigrants. In collaboration with ENDD, we are also working to educate the immigrant community on the President's Executive Action on Immigration ("DAPA" and "DACA") through **community forums**. We have recently updated and re-printed our **Know Your Rights booklets** in Spanish, English and French and are distributing them throughout the state. Our major legislative priority currently is a statewide campaign for tuition equality for all NC students regardless of immigration status. This week, we launched a Triad chapter of **Let's Learn NC**, a coalition which works for educational access & in-state tuition for immigrants, with **a training for undocumented students** and allies on how to tell your story and lobby policymakers. We are working with a consultant to develop a curriculum for **increased outreach to African American communities around immigration** issues and to build unity between African American and Latino communities. Our office is hosting the annual **Pilgrimage for Peace & Justice** in early April and will focus on Black Lives Matter and the Tuition Equality campaign. We continue to work with our **immigrant ally groups**, the Immigrant Solidarity Committee of Charlotte (based in the Charlotte Friends Meeting), which is focused on

outreach to churches about immigration, and the Immigrant Rights Working Group in Greensboro.

Joint Projects between NCPEJ & NCIRP:

Outreach to Muslim Community: We are coordinating with others locally to build understanding and reduce Islamophobia. We had a blog post published on AFSC's national site following the killing of Muslim students in Chapel Hill. In the wake of the Chapel Hill shooting, and other violent acts upon human bodies in our community, AFSC is working with a recently convened group called Neighbor to Neighbor For Common Ground (N2NFCG) in an effort to create safe space for getting to know people that you may not otherwise get to know, including people of various religious, racial and sexual orientation backgrounds. First public gathering TBA.

“Human Rights Through Digital Storytelling” Spring Break Camp: We continue to utilize digital storytelling as a way for people whose voices are not often heard to tell their own stories in their own words. We are organizing a Spring Break camp for refugee & immigrant high-schoolers called “Human Rights Through Digital Storytelling”, following the success of a summer camp of the same theme. This effort is being funded by the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS group), which awarded a \$3,000 grant to further establish ongoing joint program work with young people who are refugees, immigrants and people of color. The camp will elevate their voices through participatory human rights education and media/digital storytelling, then screen their short films to the community.

Quaker Outreach: With the goal of increased outreach to Quaker Meetings, we have established a Quaker Liaison volunteer position. This volunteer ensures that area Meetings receive copies of our newsletter each month, and plan forums with local Meetings. So far, we have held one forum with two more in the planning stages. We are always looking for opportunities to visit local Meetings and would be pleased to offer forums. In addition, AFSC nationally has started a new Meeting/Church Liaison program as a way to better connect with Friends, as well as an Acting in Faith blog (<http://www.afsc.org/friends>).

Connecting with AFSC-NC: We send out a monthly newsletter and also daily updates from our facebook page (www.facebook.com/afscnc). Please also check out our digital storytelling projects at www.youtube.com/afscnc. To be added to our newsletter list, email LKhamala@afsc.org or call 336-854-0633.

AFSC Area Office of the Carolinas Background & Structure

The American Friends Service Committee is privileged to have an office just blocks from two Greensboro Friends Meetings and from Guilford's campus, and this proximity encourages a lot of interaction and from Guilford and a plethora of interns. Two and a half years ago, AFSC engaged in significant restructuring, resulting in four regions within the U.S. We are located in the South region, along with offices in Baltimore, West Virginia, DC, New Orleans, Miami and regional headquarters in Atlanta. Nikki Vangsnes of Durham Meeting serves on our regional Executive Committee. Kamau Franklin began in April 2014 as Regional Director based in Atlanta. Ann Lennon serves as the Associate Regional Director for the South; she is based in Greensboro/ Winston-Salem. In our local office, we have two full-time staff, one full-time Fellow (through September 2015), and 10 part-time volunteers and interns. We have a strong volunteer and intern program that supports our two vibrant and robust programs, despite limited staffing.

Quaker House Report

Quaker House *“A Place of Peace in a Military City”* Business Meeting Report for 2014

Quaker House, a manifestation of the Friends' Peace Testimony, is based in Fayetteville, NC, home of Fort Bragg, one of the largest United States military bases. Founded in 1969 to support draftees who opposed the Vietnam War, Quaker House has for over 45 years provided counseling and support to service members who are questioning their role in the military; worked to educate them, their families and the public about military issues; and advocate for a

more peaceful world. Today, under Directors Steve and Lynn Newsom, the Quaker House mission continues to grow.

Counseling Soldiers and Veterans: We worked with many soldiers, veterans and their families in need of help. One soldier became a regular attendee of Fayetteville Friends Meeting and our Mindfulness Classes. Our GI Rights Hotline Counselors, Steve Woolford and Lenore Yarger, counseled 2,589 service members during the year.

Alternatives to Violence Project Training: We conducted four trainings with a total of 26 different participants in one or more of the workshops. Participants were military, VA, civilian social workers, counselors, a military chaplain, Quakers, and teachers. One of our graduates is starting an AVP program in South Carolina. The NC Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and the Licensed Professional Counselors Association of NC provided contact hour credits for these.

Connecting with the Military: We belong to five organizations that bring together military mental health professionals and civilians to help our service members and veterans. Because of these connections, we are invited on base for and to give various programs: domestic violence, traumatic brain injury, sexual assault, moral injury and chaplains' meetings. We hold weekly Mindfulness classes, which are helpful for victims of PTSD and moral injury. We host house concerts, music jams, and educational forums regularly to raise our profile in the community and attract service members to Quaker House. We have received excellent publicity in the press as a result of these activities: full color, whole page articles, as well as TV and radio interviews.

Quaker House Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in the Military Program: Joanna, our Domestic Violence coordinator, provided domestic violence and sexual assault therapy to 28 victims, family of victims, and perpetrators. She gave presentations on the subject to many organizations. Referrals to Joanna come frequently from Victim's Advocates at Ft. Bragg. Human Rights Watch lawyers have visited us to interview some of our victims and plan to spotlight our program in a film they plan to produce. Lynn Serves on the Board of the city CARE Center for Domestic Violence.

Moral Injury: A service member can suffer moral injury if he or she must participate in, or witness, a morally unconscionable situation, i.e. war. It is a wound to the soul, leading to shame and grief. The recognition of moral injury opens conversations with the military and chaplains about the morality of war and the need for Conscientious Objection. We gave presentations in North Carolina and Florida as well as at conferences and retreats we attended throughout the country this year. Military and VA chaplains and mental health professionals attended these programs. After each presentation, we often comfort veterans and/or their families who know that they suffer from moral injury.

Torture: We continue to work with North Carolina Stop Torture Now to educate the public about the United States' and North Carolina's role in the use of torture. North Carolina Stop Torture Now is credited with playing a major role in convincing Senator Burr to vote to release the Torture Report.

Report of the Yearly Meeting

15th of Third Month, 2015

Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting held its first annual session on the 14th of Third month, 2015 with 76 Friends in attendance. There was a true sense of joy and anticipation for the opportunities that this new yearly meeting can provide for strengthening the spiritual life of

meetings, strengthening our service and witness in the world and connecting with the broader body of Friends. Out of worship a member of each affiliated meeting read their meeting's minute on affiliation. Those meetings include: Chapel Hill, Charlotte, Fancy Gap, New Garden, Salem Creek, Raleigh and Upstate Worship Group.

Yearly Meeting received reports & recommendations from the ad hoc Yearly Meeting committee that has been meeting with the yearly meeting formation committee during this past year. Yearly Meeting approved three documents that provide guidance for the yearly meeting. These include: The (1) Vision Statement & Core Elements, (2) the PFF/PFYM Relationship, and (3) Policy & Practice Handbook (draft). The latter document provides for three officers including: presiding clerk, assistant providing clerk and recording clerk. Session approved the slate of officers that was brought forward by the yearly meeting ad hoc nominating committee as follows: Marian Beane, presiding clerk (2 years), John Cardarelli, assistant presiding clerk (1 year) and Julie Stafford, recording clerk (1 year). Finally Yearly Meeting approved preparation of an epistle informing Friends 'everywhere' about the establishment of Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting and the spirit of its first session that was held in coordination with Piedmont Friends Fellowship's annual weekend retreat.

Interim Meeting is the representative body of the Yearly Meeting and will meet 3 or 4 times during the year. Its task and charge is to further the work of the yearly meeting between annual sessions. All affiliated meetings are asked to appoint up to three representatives. Individuals from any of the PFF meetings are also invited to participate in Interim Meeting and other yearly meeting programs as they are led. Interim Meeting will hold its first session on Saturday, May 2nd. PFF can expect to receive regular reports from the Yearly Meeting and Interim Meeting in particular as we our mutual relationship and shared visions.

Report prepared by Marian Beane, clerk

Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting.

Youth Epistle from Annual Retreat

March 15, 2015

Dear PFF:

Thank you so much for everything that went into this year's retreat. During the program this year we had youth-led workshops in "duck tape," cooking, fiber arts, and music. We took tour of Guilford's campus and played down by their lake which many of us enjoyed. As a youth, some of the other highlights were playing games in the graveyard, the AFSC presentation, and playing bear.

We have a few suggestions for making the PFF retreat an even better experience. Many of the youth expressed a desire to return to the Carolina Friends School. Without the Greensboro youth here, we felt awkward, as if we were staying in someone else's home while they were away. Advantages of holding the retreat at CFS would be that it's a much more open and flexible space and that the renovated school has a new and improve kitchen facility. We went to give a special thank you to Karen and John for all the hard work they did in the kitchen. We'd also like to thank New Garden Friends Meeting for hosting us this weekend.

Treasurer's Report

Summary and additions to the P.F.F. Treasurer's report dated 1/8/2015 for presentation at the 3/14/2015 P.F.F. Representative Meeting and/or Yearly Meeting.

Self Help Credit Union balance of February 28, 2015: \$8,212.73
PNC Bank Checking balance of February 28, 2015: \$10,690.35
Our total cash balance as of February 28, 2015, was \$18,903.08.

No outflows of cash since last meeting. This does not include any expenditures made for the PFF 2015 Spring Retreat, nor any monies collected for the Retreat.
Monthly Member Meetings Donations so far: Raleigh Friends \$200, Fancy Gap Friends \$300, and New Garden Friends \$300. These are included in the above totals.

Piedmont Friends Fellowship Statement of Receipts and Expenditures 1/1/2014-12/31/2014

Receipts

Interest Income (Self-Help Credit Union)	\$33.17
Membership Donations (Monthly Meetings)	\$4,700.00
Spring & Fall Retreats Combined Receipts	<u>\$4,021.25</u>
<u>Total Receipts</u>	<u>\$8,754.42</u>

Expenditures

Spring & Fall Retreat Combined Expenses	\$3,450.46
General Expenses –	
FGC travel for Exec. Committee	\$300.00
Financial Assistance for FGC Gathering	\$750.00
Bank Service Charge	<u>\$2.00</u>
<u>Total Expenditures</u>	<u>\$4502.46</u>

Receipts Less Expenditures 2014

Total Receipts	\$8754.42
Total Expenditures	<u>\$4502.46</u>
<u>Excess of</u>	<u>\$4,251.96</u>